

# spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

October, 1968.

New Series, Price 6d.

## Cardiff's Sully Centre opened

THE Spastics Society has spent something like £1m. on South Wales projects in recent years, and it was encouraging to know that much of this money was raised in South Wales, said the Society's Assistant Director of Services, Mr. D. R. H. Lancaster-Gaye, when he spoke at the official opening of the Sully Work Centre, near Cardiff.

The Centre, which accommodates 45 spastics, was built by the Society as Wales' first purpose-built factory for handicapped workers. Since its completion the Society has built a second Welsh work centre at Cwmbran.

### More valuable

The official opening ceremony was performed by Lt.-Col. H. M. Llewellyn, one of the most famous names in British show jumping.

Col. Llewellyn pointed out that, as head of an engineering organisation, he was aware that handicapped workers were of inestimable value to the economy of the country because they filled gaps on the labour front.

"In fact, in many ways they are more valuable and useful citizens than people with no handicaps at all," he said.

Chairing the ceremony was Dr. Sylvia K. Guthrie, a member of The Spastics Society's Executive Committee, who said the Society hoped that many of the Sully workers would go on to compete in the open world despite their handicaps.

Mr. P. I. Edwards, manager of the Centre, seconded Mr. Lancaster-Gaye's vote of thanks to Col. Llewellyn. The Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, the Rt. Rev. T. M. Hughes, blessed the Centre and led prayers.

## Symbol contest goes to schools

SCHOOLS all over the country are being invited to take part in a competition organised by the Spastics Society in which pupils aged 11 to 18 are being asked to design a symbol for the first National Spastics Week, June 29 to July 5th, 1969.

Three first prizes of educational cruises to Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Andalsnes on the S.S. Uganda next May are being donated by The 62 Club, and winners will also receive sets of artists' materials given by Reeves and Sons Ltd.

Judges will be Mr. Alan Garth, editor of "Advertiser's Weekly," Mr. Christopher Sim-



"Now wha . . . wha . . . what do you think that little lot is worth? Well, whatever it is, they'll all be falling about when I knock it over. Auntie says there's no need to apologise, but I probably shall just in case it's all a horrible mistake and the ceiling comes down . . ."

Comedian Harry Worth need not have worried. This "little lot" at the Three Blackbirds, Hemel Hempstead, as well as the proceeds of a "guess how much" competition and an auction yielded over £42 for the Spastics Society.

The closing date for entries is December 9.

## Pools case for Lords

A new development in the pools case involving Top Ten Promotions Ltd. means further delay in the outcome.

Announcing that the Commissioners of Customs and Excise had lodged an appeal to the House of Lords against the de-

cision of the Court of Appeal on May 27, the Chairman of the Spastics Society, Mr. W. A. Burn, said Top Ten Promotions Ltd. had therefore been obliged to cross-appeal.

"So once again, we must experience a further period of

## OAKWOOD TEAM IN COMPUTER SUCCESS

**TWENTY SPASTICS** from the Oakwood Centre at Kelvedon are taking part in an experiment by Fords to train them as computer programmers — and have produced results in aptitude tests which have surprised the company. One candidate achieved 100 per cent.

The possibility of a measure of financial independence for some severely handicapped people arises as a result of the work, pioneered by Fords Systems Department. For the Oakwood 20 completed their tests with an almost 50 per cent pass rate.

"We immediately knew the project was going to be successful for some, and with one spastic achieving the remarkable test result of 100% we got very enthusiastic," said the Company's Systems Manager, Mr. Alec Daly.

### AVOIDING FALSE HOPES

"We selected 20 spastics and we made it clear to them from the start that even if they passed, there would be many difficulties in the mechanics of the system and the whole issue might yet be a failure. This was to avoid raising any false hopes and an attempt to prevent participants getting excited at too early a stage."

Encouraged by these initial results, Fords approached the Medical Officers of Health in Essex with the suggestion that other handicapped or severely disabled people might take the test. A further 10 pupils were passed.

In the next stage, the I.B.M. team resident at Warley prepared a self-instruction manual, and facts about the Company were given to the students so that they felt an identity with the organisation. Then the pupils started a three weeks' course on the programming language used by the Fords Systems Department.

## And Society is delighted

MR. J. LE PREVOST, the Education Officer of the Spastics Society, commented: "We are not surprised by the success of the Oakwood students in the Ford computer tests. They are a selected group of intelligent young people, engaged in further studies under the guidance of specialist tutors. Their interests are varied.

"Their common denominator is severe physical handicap requiring a great deal of care.

"It is difficult to find outlets for these young students which will give them a measure of economic independence and of satisfaction from a worthwhile job.

"We are delighted that the Ford project has begun

so well and hope that these young people will be able to support the pressures of industrial demands in output on their physical and

nervous strength, sufficiently to bring them a degree of improved personal independence and pride."

Relax  
in a  
Radox  
bath

### After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes. Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

## Meldreth job for 'Queen'

A FEW DAYS before starting work with the spastic children at the Meldreth Training School, 17-year-old Mary Quirke became the 1968 Carnival Queen of St. Neots.

Mary, who said she entered the contest only because she was "talked into it," won an 11-day holiday on the Mediterranean island of Ibiza as her main prize. She was crowned by last year's Queen and received her sash and gown and a bouquet from TV and radio personality David Hamilton, who had compered the judging.

"I just couldn't believe it was me" said Mary later. "I was at the back of all the other contestants. They had to drag me out and send me towards the stage."

She will take with her, as her companion on the holiday, the girl she worked with as a hairdresser before giving this up to nurse children at Meldreth.



Mary Quirke after the crowning ceremony. "I couldn't believe it was me," she said.  
(Photo courtesy of "Cambridge News").

## Still room for ideas on big June event

SPASTICS Week 1969 will be a major item on the agenda of the Society's annual general meeting on November 2. A complete session on the subject has been arranged with opportunities for discussions, study groups and questions.

Organiser Mike Reynolds says that consideration will be given in this session to a draft "Campaign Manual" which will previously have been circulated to secretaries of all Spastics Society groups in the country. This guide will contain advice on fund raising, recruitment of man-power, organisation of local press publicity and many other topics which, it is hoped, will help to make Spastics Week a success in every corner of the country.

Other chapters will give details of the events and schemes which the Society is planning nationally and details of literature and other publicity media being made available to groups at the time.

From the discussions at the A.G.M. this draft will be tightened up and printed so that it can be used as a complete guide to Spastics Week planning by all groups, schools and centres and any other organisations who may be able to help us next year.

### Pull together

Says Mr. Reynolds: "Groups were asked some weeks ago to give their opinion on the length of the 'Week.' A few felt that a longer period (a fortnight) would be preferable, a larger number that two weekends should be included in the week but by far the overwhelming majority thought that a 'Week' should, in fact, be a week and last precisely seven days. So be it!"

"Spastics Week" will only be a success if we all pull together and resolve that it should be so. This involves keeping all aspects of the Society in the picture all the way through.

"There is still a lot of room for NEW IDEAS. Please put on your thinking caps and if you are going to be at the A.G.M., come fully armed for a 'no holds-barred' session, a fete which we can all aim in one direction—June 29th, 1969.

"It would be helpful if representatives coming to this important meeting can be fully briefed on the requirements and problems of their groups. And if you can't be represented at the A.G.M., we are still anxious to have your views on

### SPASTICS WEEKS

Spastics Week. Please write and let us know what YOU think."

Warrington, Southport, Crosby, Liverpool and Widnes groups combined to produce a busy programme of events for the first North Merseyside Spastics Week, which took place from September 16-22.

At WARRINGTON the centre was open and on different evenings there were films, coffee mornings and sale, a cheese and wine party and a hair styling demonstration, and throughout there was a demonstration and sale of handiwork. The week ended with the annual flag day.

At SOUTHPORT, the events opened with a public meeting, with a film, a talk and light entertainment. Functions at Ellerslie Court included sports, a barbecue and a beat night, as well as open sessions. Other events included an exhibition of horse-riding in conjunction with Crosby and a service at St. James' Church. While the centre was open, there was a jewellery display and demonstration of jewellery making.

At CROSBY, there were talks and film shows, a swimming dis-

## Luncheon clubs may make link stronger

EIGHTEEN months ago a small group of mothers met in Nottingham to discuss how they could get together with other young mothers of spastic children during the daytime, when other members of the family were out or at school, and they were relatively free to enjoy themselves.

As a result of this meeting, the Nottingham Mothers' Luncheon Club was born, closely followed by the Derby Mothers' Luncheon Club, and more recently by the second Luncheon Club for mothers whose children are now adults.

Although still independent clubs with a friendly link with their local Groups, they are hoping soon to have an official place within the framework of

the Spastics Society. They feel they have much to offer, particularly to the mothers of very young spastic children who are still trying to cope with all the pain, bewilderment and lack of knowledge that this involves, or to the mothers who have become virtually housebound because of caring for a severely handicapped adult spastic at home.

The Clubs are financially independent, what money they need to subsidise their activities coming from bi-annual jumble sales and raffles. Transport to the Community Centre or Church Hall where meetings are held is laid on for those who need it; children prepared to leave their mothers are cared for in another room; delicious lunches are served by voluntary helpers, and an interesting programme of outings, inter-club visits, and speakers is arranged.

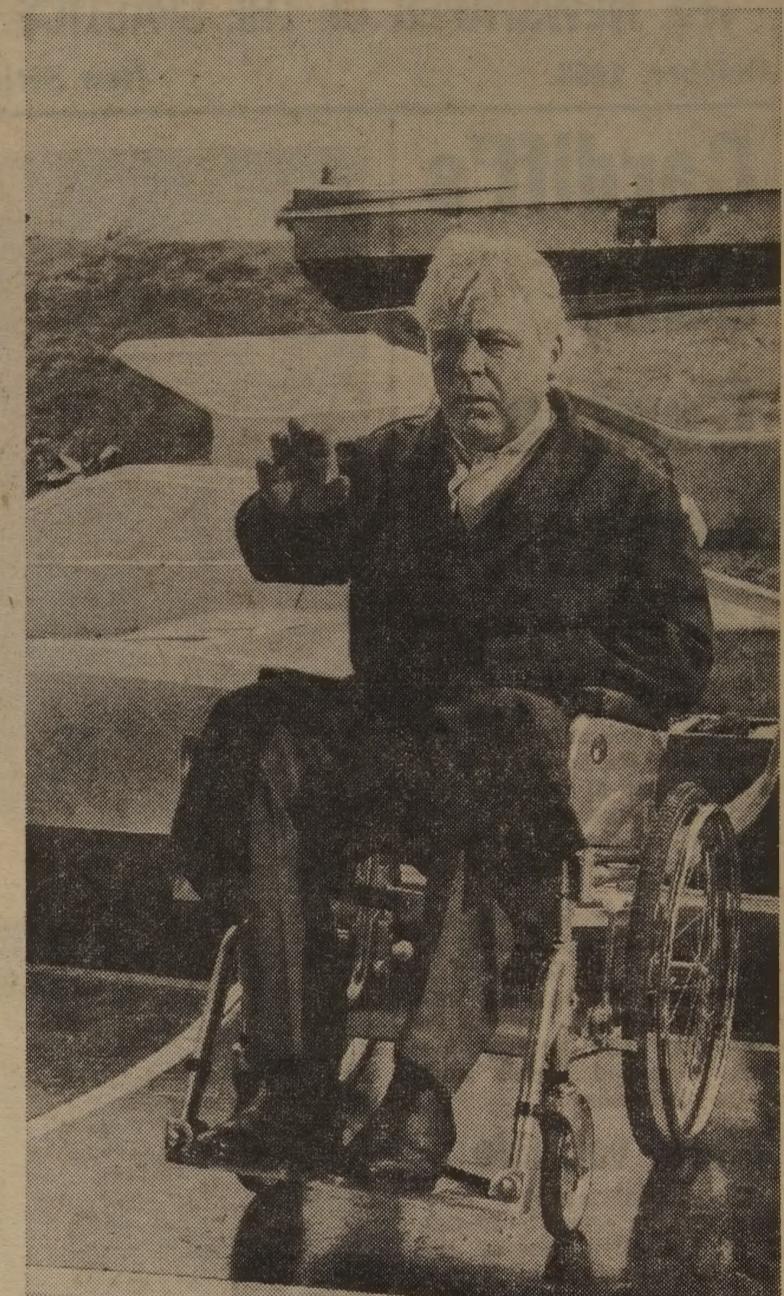
### Help offered

The Nottingham Club recently visited the Pine Bank Day Centre in Chesterfield, run by the Chesterfield and District Spastics Society, and are shortly visiting the Westdale Hospital for Mentally Handicapped Children.

The Derby Club recently had an outing to Nottingham and left their handicapped children to be cared for at the Family Help Unit in Nottingham before going on to a cookery demonstration at the Coal Utilisation Council.

\* \* \*

The Secretaries of the Luncheon Clubs will be delighted to give any help they can to other mothers who want to start a club. Their addresses can be obtained through the Spastics Society.



Recognise the man in the wheelchair? It's actor Patrick Wymark in a film now being made at Pinewood Studios.

Recognise the wheelchair? It's a polished Newton Safari produced at Meadway Works, the Spastics Society's factory in Birmingham.

Universal Pictures Ltd. were making the film, in which Mr. Wymark appears in a couple of scenes in a wheelchair, and having looked at those available, the studios decided that the Newton was the most photogenic.

### OUT ON THE SPREE

HELPERS ARE still wanted for "Help the Disabled Week" events being organised by the Lewisham Association for the Handicapped in the London area. Pushers, escorts and car drivers are urgently needed to help during shopping sprees. Please contact Mrs. Fry at 460-7947.

## The big hearts and the small places

"I don't know how many collectors have this sort of experience, but it is becoming a very important part of my work in a rural area."

IN the annals of the Spastics Society, there are countless examples of kindness emerging in the strangest places and in the strangest ways. Mrs. Ricketts, one of the Society's collectors found it recently in the hamlet of

Kimbolton, in Huntingdonshire, and laid her finger on an important section of goodwill—people in little villages who want to help but who often have little to spare in terms of hard cash.

Mrs. Ricketts, passing through Kimbolton one day in September last year, left three collecting boxes there. Later, she learned that one of these was noted with interest by an elderly widow with no family. The months passed until February when, again passing through Kimbolton, Mrs. Ricketts was presented with two beautiful hand-knitted blankets by one of the shops holding a box. She was told that they came from Mrs. Dickins, of 6 St. Andrews Lane, Kimbolton.

\* \* \*

After she had written to Mrs. Dickins, thanking her and telling her that the blankets would be given to a nearby unit, Mrs. Ricketts learned that other blankets had been knitted and sent to the same unit by the same donor.

In Kimbolton again recently, Mrs. Ricketts met Mrs. Dickins—and was given a wonderful welcome and presen-

ted with three more blankets, together with the assurance that she would be continuing this good work for the spastics.

The latest offerings have been given to the Ida Darwin Hospital at Fulbourn, Cambridge. Said Mrs. Ricketts: "This lady has made what must have been a great effort, for the blankets are beautifully made and crocheted finished."

\* \* \*

She added: "I don't know how many collectors have this sort of experience, but it is becoming a very important part of my work in a rural area. Folks in the little villages want to help, but often have very little in hard cash to spare."

*Footnote: The editor would like to hear of similar gestures from out-of-the-way places.*

### 100,000 WORDS

IN 1962 Halifax Spastics Society decided to print a quarterly Newsletter. Since then more than 100,000 words have been published, and the circulation area has been extended to Australia, Canada and the United States.



There were over 100 starters from the Spastics Society's Bedfont Hotel in Clacton for a Charity Walk that raised more than £100. The walk was organised by Clacton Youth Council and £40 of the proceeds was given to the Bedfont. (Picture by courtesy of "East Essex Gazette").

# 1,000 ATTEND GRANGE FARM GYMKHANA

MORE than 1,000 people attended the second annual open gymkhana and jumping show of the Pony Riding for the Disabled Trust, held at Grange Farm Camping and Sports Centre—an ideal setting for what is fast becoming a well-established event.

## Results

In this list of results, disabled riders are indicated thus\*

Bending race—disabled and 9 years and under: 1. Michael Cain\*; 2. John Woods\*; 3. C. Trevor-Roper; 4. Stephen Castle\*; Reserve, Kim Davies.

Bending race—10 years to 17 years: 1. H. Murdoch; 2. M. Hedge; 3. M. A. Trevor-Roper; 4. Gay Ward; Reserve, Heather Cope.

Leading rein walk and trot, disabled and 9 years and under: 1. Tony Penn\*; 2. A. Lewis; 3. P. White; 4. S. Stock; Reserve, H. Smith.

Saddling-up race—open: 1. A. Murdoch; 2. A. Mullings; 3. Janet McEwan; 4. Gay Ward; Reserve, H. Murdoch.

Saddling-up race—disabled riders: 1. Michael Cain\*, Tony Penn\*; 3. John Broyd\*; 4. Sandra Nevill\*; Reserve, Ben Irving\*.

Potato race—disabled riders and 9 years and under: 1. Martin Giles; 2. P. White; 3. M. Lewis; 4. J. Smith.

Potato race—open: 1. A. Mullins; 2. A. Murdoch and M. Murdoch (tie); 4. Jane Burroughs; Reserve Janet McEwan.

Flag race—open: 1. H. Murdoch; 2. A. Murdoch; 3. Janet McEwan; 4. A. Mullins.

Sack race—open: 1. A. Mullins; 2. Janet McEwan; 3. A. Murdoch; 4. Madeleine Davenport; Reserve, Heather Cootie.

Musical sacks—disabled riders (with leaders) and 9 years and under: 1. H. Smith; 2. S. Stock; 3. Jane Smith; 4. P. White.

Walk, trot and canter—open: 1. Janet McEwan; 2. A. Murdoch; 3. M. A. Trevor-Roper; 4. Ann Parsons; Reserve, Jane Burroughs.

Junior jumping competition: 1. Jacqueline Lewis; 2. Amanda Spiers; 3. K. Lister; 4. J. Trevor-Roper; Reserve, K. Lister.

Disabled riders jumping competition: 1. John Woods\* and Ben Irving\* (tie); 3. Michael Cain\*; 4. David Ryder\*; Reserve, Tony Penn.

Novice jumping—open: 1. J. Trevor-Roper; 2. Elizabeth Lewis; 3. Pamela Jackson; 4. Gillian Dafters; Reserves, B. Blowfield and Rosemary Davies.

Open jumping: 1. Mrs. L. Ferré; 2. K. Lister; 3. Miss B. Saunders; 4. Mary Pomfret; Reserve, H. Samuels.

## No fears over flats

When the Cornish Spastics Society decided, with the help of the national society, to provide a holiday home for spastics at Par as their first project, they were somewhat apprehensive as to whether two holiday flats would be fully used.

They need not have worried. The flats, created from a cottage which was once the home of a spastic, Ian MacGillivray, now a resident at the Gladys Holman Home at Camborne, have been well received.

Ian's guardian, Mr. Philip Varcoe, chairman of the Cornish Society, made a gift of the cottage. Now there are two

The general standard of performance was high and the two rings provided continuous entertainment and enjoyment for the spectators.

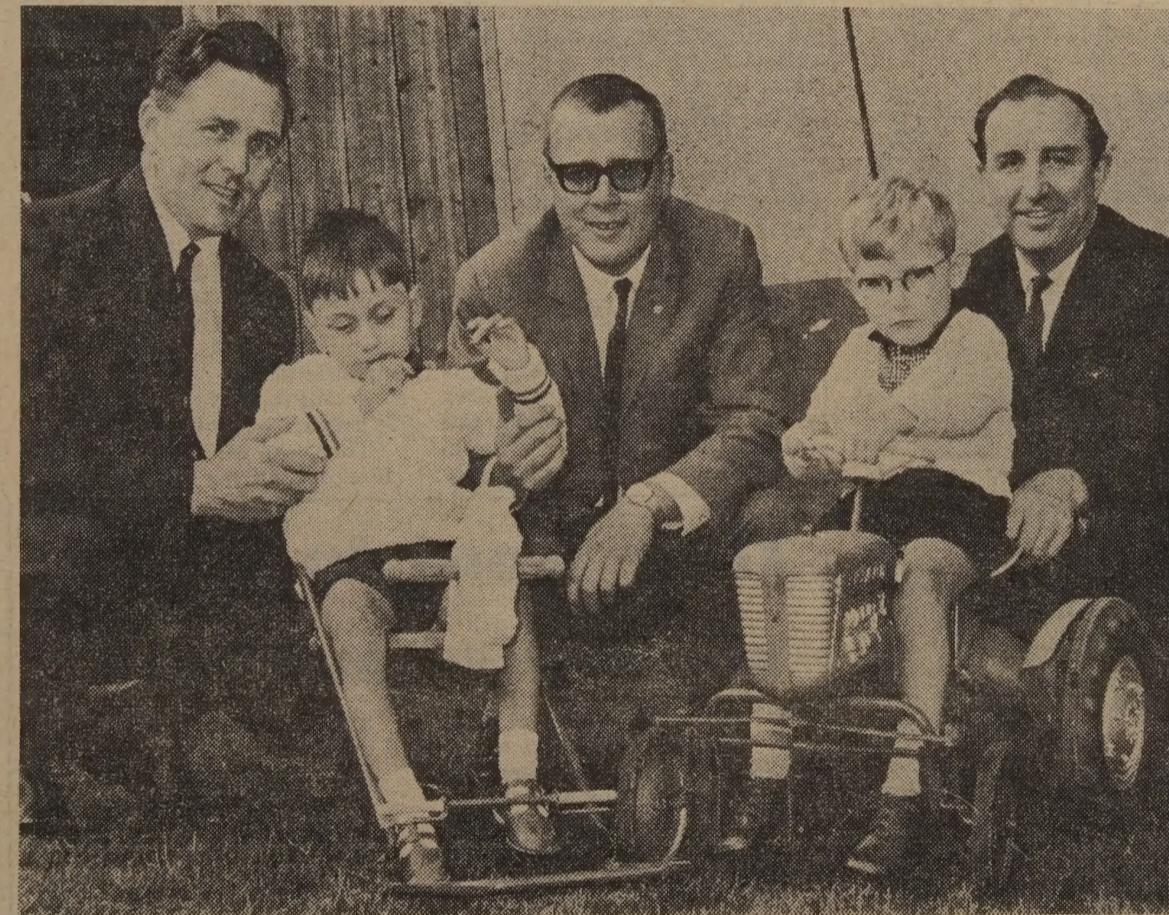
The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brise, who is president, launched an appeal for funds to extend the work of the Trust. He stressed in his speech the excellent work of the Trust and the outstanding results of its work.

Although many appeals were in existence, he said, he must urge people to give generously to this Trust in order that many more children might benefit from its activities.

Sir John toured the show and spoke to some of the disabled riders taking part in many of the gymkhana events.

## Trophies

Trophy winners were as follows:—The Facey Cup, (junior jumping), Jacqueline Lewis; The Kings Oak Trophy, (disabled jumping), John Woods\* and Ben Irving\*. The Winstone Cup, (novice jumping), J. Trevor-Roper; The Skidmore Cup, (open jumping), Mrs. L. Ferré; The Van der Gucht Cup (able-bodied rider with most points), A. Murdoch; The Lady Leaders Cup, (disabled rider with most points), Michael Cain.



## Plant a rose—help a spastic child

WITH every copy of Spastics News this month there comes an exceptional rose offer from the famous grower, Harry Wheatcroft—and a chance to help spastics in an unusual way. The Enthusiast's Collection, representing the finest value in hybrid tea roses, is offered to readers at well below the normal catalogue value. And the Spastics Society is behind the venture because Harry Wheatcroft has agreed to donate a significant part of the proceeds to help spastics.

All rose-lovers will welcome this opportunity to increase their stock and at the same time express in a concrete way their desire to aid tragically handicapped children. So fill in the coupon below without delay and be in time for Autumn planting.

Harry Wheatcroft spends a lot of time travelling. Last year he visited France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Holland and Eire, judging and advising on roses. In his catalogue this year, he describes how he visited, in France, the country home of the Duke of Windsor to see his roses. Mr. Wheatcroft told the Duke about the luminous vermillion bloom which he intends to introduce—and the Duke of Windsor agreed that it should bear his name.



To: Harry Wheatcroft & Sons Ltd., Edwalton, Nottingham.  
Please send me your Enthusiast's Collection. I enclose cheque/P.O. for 64/6d.

Name .....  
Address .....  
SSHW

## Now rain won't stop play at the Blackburn centre

### Round the Ring

When a horse show and gymkhana was held in aid of spastics at Highden Farm, Washington (Sussex), four spastic children took part—and raised more than £21 themselves.

The four, who rode round the ring, had been unable to walk or move their limbs before learning to ride, said an announcer.

**Assessment of the Cerebrally Palsied Child for Education**  
**SOCIETY'S NEW BOOK**  
Edited by the Director  
**James Loring**  
Available from the Publications Dept.—Price 15/-

Rain no longer stops play at Blackburn and District Spastics Society's Centre. Blackburn Greys Round Table have developed a sheltered play area at the rear of the centre, most of the work being done by the Tablers themselves in their spare time. They have also equipped the area with prams and tricycles. The project cost well over £100, part of the money being raised by a businessmen's lunch held in Blackburn earlier this year. Seen after the opening of the play area are Mr. Bill Younger (left), secretary of Blackburn and District Spastics Society, Mr. Tony Hird, Chairman of Blackburn Greys, who performed the ceremony, and Mr. Jim Mason, Chairman of the Society (right) helped two of the youngsters at the centre, Martyn Bury (left) of Hindle Street, Darwen, and Duncan Aspden, of Branch Road, Samlesbury, to get "in the picture," which is here reproduced by courtesy of the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

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**W. SPARKS, P.J.S.,**  
**28 Greenway Road,**  
**Taunton, Somerset.**

## EMERGENCY AUTUMN BOOKINGS

Colwall Court has a few vacancies from the 12th October for 5 weeks. If you have missed your Summer holiday, why not take an Autumn holiday this time?

Terms Children £5 5 0 weekly  
Adults £10 10 0 weekly  
Escorts to be arranged

### Colwall Court Holiday Hotel

Bexhill-on-Sea • Bexhill 1491

## PLEASURE IN STORE

THE DIRECTORS OF Bon Marche Ltd., a Gloucester departmental store, have invited all spastics, parents and friends of the Gloucester and District Spastics Association to a Social Evening on October 9. The programme will include a film show and a concert by the firm's own choir and organist.

"Nothing is too much trouble for this firm. They show a sympathy and understanding which is truly wonderful," said the Association's Honorary Secretary, Mr. William Thomas.

## Corrections

We are obliged to Mr. Alan Monks, chairman of the Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics Group, for pointing out that a picture in the September issue purporting to show the presentation of a bouquet to the late Princess Marina during a visit to Croydon, in fact recorded the scene at the official opening of the Lady Zia Werner Centre for Spastic Children at Luton.

The caption to a photograph in the September issue, of Mr. C. F. Wyatt receiving a cup at Southampton Show, wrongly stated that Miss D. Kimber was among those in the picture. It was, in fact, Mrs. S. Brocklehurst.

# Getting a big kick out of charity

STORMS and a power cut failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the Coventry and District Spastics Society when they held their annual garden party.

In a "mad scramble" when the storm broke over their headquarters in Meriden, all the stalls were moved under cover. And when a power cut threatened one of the main attractions

— an amateur radio display—an auxiliary power supply fitted in a member's car was put to good use, and broadcasts went out to other amateur stations in this country and in Europe.

The money raised



goes towards the cost of a three-bedroomed holiday bungalow at Prestatyn, North Wales. The picture (courtesy

"Coventry Standard") shows a demonstration by The Holbrooks Karate Club at the garden party.

## Lanthorne children will hit the saddle

SPASTIC and other handicapped children at Lanthorne Hospital School, Broadstairs, are to have their own pony as part of their therapeutic treatment.

Offer to provide the pony, stabling and a paddock has been made by Margate Round Table, whose enterprising members are to hold a fund-raising "Klondyke Night" at the Winter Gardens on November 16th.

The Table's carnival float, which won a first prize at Margate, is decorated as a Klondyke saloon bar and will be advertising the Pony Fund at other carnivals.

Idea of a "Klondyke Night," at which it is hoped to raise a substantial part of the £1,000 or so needed for the scheme, was brought back by Margate Tablers who visited Canada.

Thanet Hospital Management Committee have agreed to meet the cost of maintaining the pony and hope to obtain the voluntary services of a retired master farrier.

## Southampton: an error

In an item headed "Living on £10 a week or less" in the September issue, reference was made, through an error in transmission, to Southampton as being among the most backward authorities in the registration of disabled persons.

In fact, reference to Northampton was intended, and we apologise to the Southampton authority for the error.

**MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW**  
Saturday, 2nd Nov., 1968  
Extraordinary General Meeting, 10 a.m.  
Followed by Annual General Meeting International Students' House, London, W.1

## MORE CASH WOULD MEAN 20 EXTRA PLACES

THE 30 spastic trainees at Leeds and District Society's Work Centre have raised £1,750 through their work during the past year, announced the treasurer, Mr. P. Wilkinson, at the Society's annual meeting.

The centre was opened 18 months ago at a cost of £50,000, and at least 20 more spastics could be employed there if extra money could be raised towards the £8,000 a year running costs.

Mr. J. C. Demain, the chairman, paid tribute to the services of Mr. J. W. Crosby who is retiring after 17 years as secretary. The new secretary is Mr. M. W. Andrews.



Dawn Hargreaves, aged four, went on the trip with her mother. Together, they made this happy picture.

## The bare-foot bowler . . .

AT THE COMPLETION of the Spastics Singles League at Norwich Bowl, awards were presented by Sandy Kennon, the former Norwich City goal-keeper.

The main trophy, donated by John Culver, and bearing the

emblem and words 'Achievement and Courage' was handed to Michael Hipkin who, unable to wear regulation bowling shoes, plays in his stocking feet and holds on to the return ball rack for support.

Second prize winner was

Michael Russell, who plays from a rubber mat because he wears caliper boots.

Peter Barnes, who is a regular player in senior leagues, received the third prize, and the remaining ten league members received awards.

## Closed: reptiles resting

TEN-YEAR-OLD Nicholas Hyam and his eight-year-old friend Christopher Barass, who both live in Adversane Road, Worthing, have formed a business partnership to operate a new zoo.

On show in Nicholas's garden are two toads, a goldfish, a lizard and a frog, and viewing them costs one penny — or twopence if they jump.

On the gate is a notice warning visitors that the zoo is closed on Wednesdays "because the reptiles are resting."

Nicholas and Christopher are also selling books, cards and comics and after only 24 hours had raised £8.9. They are giving all their takings to Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society.

## Collectors' guide to raising big money

From

**JOHN EVE**

A TOTAL of £44,000 was raised in sixteen years. A record sum of £3,640 collected in 1968. This is the story of the Croydon and District Society's house-to-house collection—the biggest single money raiser of the various events organised to get the £10,000 the Group has to find each year to run its two centres.

How is it done? Where do you get your collectors? What is involved? These, and other questions are often put to the Group. It is not possible to give a full answer in a few paragraphs, but I hope to give some idea of the general framework.

### FIRST POINT

Full details of the scheme were made available to the Spastics Society in a specially prepared report for the guidance of any Group considering embarking on a similar operation.

The first point is that it is purpose-designed for our area — i.e. a widespread suburban community covering a wide income-range of preponderantly

owner-occupied houses. But the general framework would equally well serve other types of districts. The overall plan has been amended and modified over the years in the light of hard-won experience.

### NINE DIVISIONS

King pin of the operation is The Organiser. This is always a member of the Appeals Committee, and it's his job to arrange the dates with the Metropolitan Police (we have a fortnight), get printing done, to see sufficient boxes are available and labelled, sign the collectors' authorisations, keep full records, chase the right people to get the returns in and keep financial records. Truly a formidable task.

A willing and able organiser is a pearl beyond price!

This year we had 970 collectors out during the fortnight.

## They went to a zoo, so how about you?

A RECENT successful visit of a party from one of the Society's Adult Centres to the London Zoo has indicated that facilities can be laid on by the Zoo authorities that can make this sort of social outing a most satisfactory one.

Following on from this particular visit, the Public Relations Department of the Zoological Society of London have been in touch with the Society and asked them to publicise the Zoo's facilities more widely in case others should wish to think in terms of organising party visits.

### ADVANTAGES

The Zoological Society of London can offer two main advantages from the point of view of party visits:—  
**Economy.** A party of 25 can be admitted to these two zoos for two-thirds of the normal charge, i.e. 5/- a head for adults, 2/6 for children. Catering for parties of this size can also be

arranged, subject to advance booking, and again the overall cost would be cheaper than individual catering.

**Conveniences.** The zoos are easy of access for wheelchairs, and in fact, wheelchairs can be hired at the zoos. Tours can be arranged to suit particular requirements. Convenient restaurant facilities for the disabled can be arranged, or alternatively, picnic lunches can be provided.

### ENQUIRIES

The Zoo's Public Relations Department would be pleased to answer specific enquiries with regard to party bookings and can supply helpful literature. Any Groups interested in taking the matter further should contact the Public Relations Department, The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1. The representative who visited the Society recently is Mr. N. Chiswell Jones.

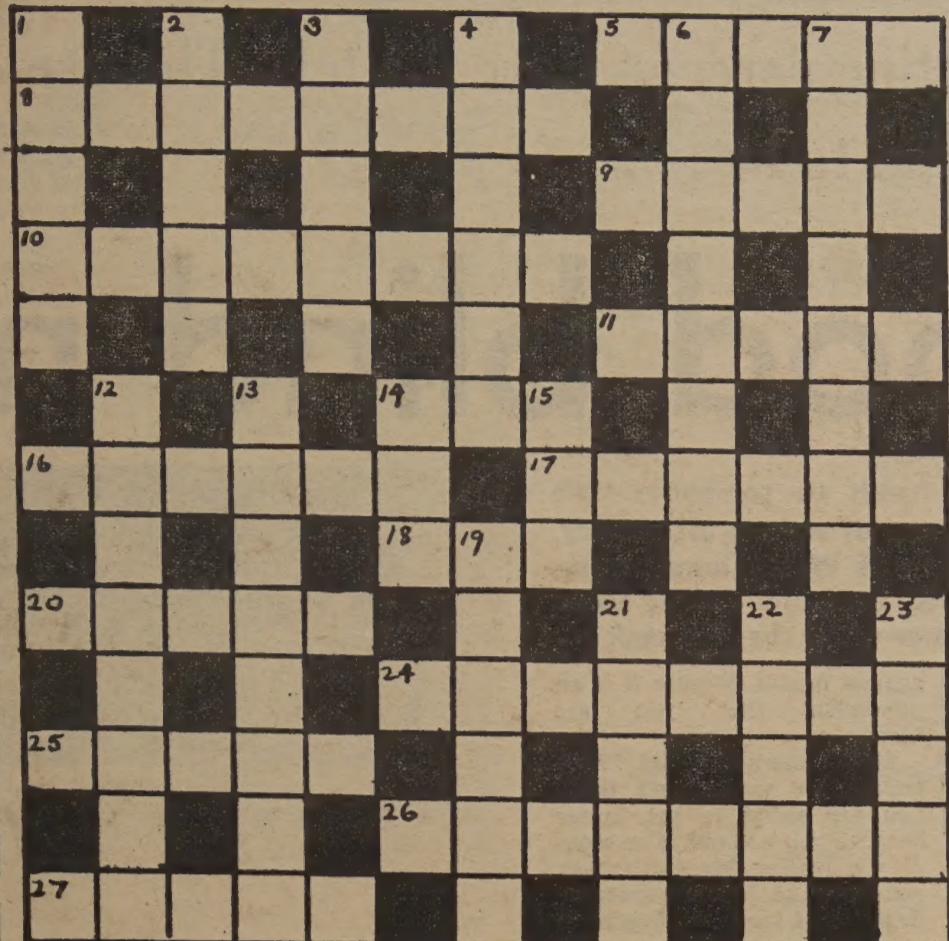
It is worth mentioning that £140 of the costs was for printing leaflets, which are put through letter boxes before the collection starts. These announce the collecting period and give information about the Group. These could be dispensed with but our experience shows that they are invaluable in smoothing the way for collectors.

### NEW FIELD

Where do the collectors come from? Well, there are parents and members to start with. The rest are kind friends who have been recruited over the years by personal contact. Several of our older spastics who are sufficiently mobile always help — in fact one of the biggest individual collections is regularly made by a sixty-year-old spastic who invariably collects between £25 and £30 on his own.

This year we moved into another field and made contact with a number of local schools asking for volunteers from pupils of 16 years of age and over. The result has been tremendously heartening. Over 60 pupils responded and between them they collected £163.

# PLEASE-YOURSELF CROSSWORD No. 1



In this new monthly competition, you choose whether to go for the harder "cryptic" square for a guinea, or the easy puzzle for 10s. 6d. Prizes in each case go to the senders of the first correct solutions opened. And there is a bonus — if you are a spastic, a further 10s. 6d. will be added to your prize, regardless of which clues you have answered.

Send coupon to: Editor, "Spastics News," 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, to arrive not later than first post on the 15th of this month. Solutions and prizewinners next month.

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....  
.....  
.....

**SPASTIC? YES/NO**

## This month's clues

### CRYPTIC

**Across:** 5. Is Dr. P. needing a washer? Sounds like it! 8. Offering, usually pious. 9. A bit hot, getting a letter in the island. 10. Sun and reign mixed up and making certain. 11. One of Sheridan's, perhaps. 14. Exist in any era. 16. Holiday-maker who stakes a lot of guys. 17. Just rubbish! 18. Clue. 20. Pretty small fish around the Great North Road. 24. Fighting finish for the learner when

he goes in wielding the willow. 25. Thank heaven for little ones. 26. Panic the rustler deems apt. 27. Looks like one's equals.

**Down:** 1. Current type of station. 2. Explosive expletive. 3. Moves, sometimes widder-shins. 4. He brings members together. 6. Colours again with pear tins. 7. Depraved mixture that permeated everything. 12. As the old pun suggests, there must be something like it in

Paris! 13. Fiery wand we can buy by the packet for Guy. 14. Flood precaution from 9 across. 15. See, in East Anglia. 19. Extract of extracts, as it were. 21. The way to put your foot down. 22. Something added, or carried. 23. Sapper will not differ in time.

### EASY

**Across:** 5. Apart. 8. Memory Machine. 9. Tree-stub. 10. Enjoyed. 11. Trample. 14.

Employ. 16. Abscond. 17. Practicable. 18. Perceive. 20. Companies. 24. Protector. 25. Hard, dark wood. 26. Uneducated. 27. Run again.

**Down:** 1. Frighten. 2. Insinuate. 3. Money-bag. 4. Figures. 6. Last day of week. 7. Extremely wicked. 12. Trustworthy. 13. Capital of Nepal. 14. Goes with "downs." 15. Adam's wife. 19. Power. 21. Underneath. 22. Boy's name. 23. Container.

# Have you got two left feet?

CASE 1: Belinda takes completely different size shoes. One foot stopped growing at size 1 (children's size), the other is growing normally and needs size 4 which cannot be purchased in children's sizes. She does not need surgical shoes, is a clothes conscious teenager, but all she can buy are thick brown lace-ups.

CASE 2: Peter, a 22-year-old athetoid, doesn't need surgical shoes. He wears shoes through so quickly that repairs and replacement are a major expense.

CASE 3: Cathy wears through the uppers of her shoes within about a fortnight. She doesn't need surgical shoes (doesn't want them, since she likes footwear to set off her pretty clothes). A shoe manufacturer fitted special synthetic toecaps and Cathy broke records. She was through both the toecaps and the leather uppers underneath them in a few days.

These are typical of the queries which find their way to the Aids and Appliances Dept. of the Society.

The Ministry of Health is sympathetic but points out that it cannot supply normal articles of clothing merely because of excessive wear.

When approached, both a firm making protective footwear and the Research Association of the Boot and Shoe Trade evinced a wish to do something about the problems of odd sizes and unusual wear IF they could be informed of the possible numbers involved. And you think "Hurrah! We're winning!" and eagerly prepare a questionnaire and send it out to suitable sources of information.

tion. The result is nil. Although lots of people are driven to distraction with their footwear problems, they cannot be bothered to fill in a questionnaire about them.

However, all is not lost. There are 12 firms, mainly around London, who will sell odd-sized pairs (names on request). Prices vary, from an extra £1 to 25-50 per cent on the price of an ordinary sized pair. Also there is a helpful firm in Birmingham who can change right shoes into left shoes, and vice-versa, so that if you buy two pairs, say size 2 and size 5, the firm will alter the shoes which don't fit your left or right foot and you won't have to discard the odd misfits. Charges — ladies' shoes 17/6d. a pair, and gents' 21/6d.—both plus p. and p.

For people who suffer from the excessive wear problem, there are two suggestions. One concerns the application of acrylic, a dental plastic, each application costing approximately 3/-. The other is a paint-on plastic called Tuf-tek which can be purchased only in £20 tins, each application working out at about 5/-. (Sources also on request from the Aids and Appliance Dept.).

S. K.



## Junior 'News'

with Pierre the Clown

### Down to Earth

recipes you may have.

He'd also like to know of any places of interest where you live. The reason for this is that he's planning a series of children's guides to various towns in Britain. The first one will be published in the spring, and will tell about Hastings. The pupils of St. Paul's School are helping him to produce it, and it will be crammed with all sorts of special information, such as the best fishing ponds, the best ice-cream bars, where you can hire bicycles in the holidays and thousands of other items of interest to young people. Could an interesting guide be made of your town?

Pierre is a keen cook, so he'd like to hear of any special



This happy picture from the Ingfield Manor School shows David Chilcott delightedly receiving a gift of an automatic camera from Horsham District Commissioner Mr. Brian Higgins. It was one of a number presented to handicapped members of

(Photo by courtesy of the West Sussex County Times).

### Everlasting paper

DID YOU KNOW you could draw over and over again on the same sheet of paper—and never use a pencil or a pen? Try it yourselves!

The secret is to use rough sandpaper and to make your outline drawings on it with a length of knitting wool. You will find that the wool will stick to the sandpaper quite firmly—but when you want to change the picture, all you need to do is to pull it upwards and there you are—a clean sheet, all ready to start again.

Use different coloured wools to build up solid colours in your pictures; small snippings pressed firmly down will stay there.

### Dolls galore

NEARLY A HUNDRED dolls from all parts of the world go to make up the collection of



### COOK WITH PIERRE

REMOVE THE CENTRE PARTS AND CUT THESE INTO SEGMENTS. WASH 2 OR 3 RED APPLES AND DICE, LEAVING THE SKIN ON. FILL THE GRAPEFRUIT HALVES WITH A MIXTURE OF APPLE AND GRAPEFRUIT SEGMENTS. TOP WITH A CHERRY OR A GRAPE.

CUT A GRAPEFRUIT IN HALVES - WITH SERRATED EDGES. AN EASY WAY IS TO CUT THE HALVES FIRST AND THEN SERRATE THE EDGES - USE A SHARP KNIFE - CAREFULLY.



### GRAPEFRUIT CUP

POUR A LITTLE ORANGE JUICE AND SUGAR OVER EACH ONE. SERVE.

### What a word! No. 1.

Did you ever hear someone called "slipshod" and wonder what it meant? I'm sure no-one would call you slipshod, because it means untidy.

It came into use in days long past when some people were so poor that they could not afford shoes at all, and so had to wear cheap, floppy slippers all the time.

So they were "slipper-shoed" and gradually the word became changed until today we use "slip-shod" for anyone who is down-at-heels or poorly dressed.

## SPASTICS NEWS

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OCTOBER

1968

**E**ARLIER this year the Society's new industrial and commercial Training Centre at Lancaster received its first intake of students. Later this year it will be opened officially by the Earl of Derby. On August 19 the new Adult Centre which has been called Drummonds opened in Essex and took its first spastics: this replaced Prested Hall where the lease had run out.

I think it is safe to say that these two large projects will be the last of the big residential centres to be built and opened, at least for some years.

They mark to some extent the passing of an era because during the last seven years or so the Society has been able to build large residential establishments on a scale that no Charity has ever done before. The list is impressive: The Thomas Delarue School, Ingfield Manor School, Meldreth Training School and very close to this category the units which have benefited from substantial extensions, i.e. Craig-y-Parc School, Irton Hall School, Wilfred Pickles School, Wakes Hall, Coombe Farm, Daresbury Hall and the Gladys Holman Home.

There are others not quite in this scale but all are shining examples of the determination of an association of voluntary workers not only to provide care, education and training for those in its charge, but also to pioneer in new fields and show the way for others. But for the example we have set, a great many Local Authority projects would not have been attempted, at least not on the scale and in the way that they have been.

## The depressing ratio

There have been numerous comments upon the cost of these projects. Some (for example, the Buxton Centre) have cost remarkably little per place but at others the cost has been high. In all of them the running costs are a constant cause for concern. This problem has been tackled to a great extent by economy measures, increases in fees and now by local fund raising.

We must reduce the deficits if the schools and centres are to remain open. There seems to be a built-in disposition upon the part of some critics to doubt the rightness of expenditure on such a scale by a Voluntary Body. Recently I was approached by a parent and asked what the costs of a particular establishment were, only to be met by a bald statement that the figures quoted by me could not possibly be right—their child never received services of that sort.

And yet, despite very careful examination of costs and constant annual pruning of budgets it has in fact been very difficult to reduce staffing from the depressingly high 1:1 ratio, largely because as my parent forgot, in any residential establishment there must be cooks, cleaners, gardeners, drivers, handymen and others who may not provide a direct service to spastics. There must be adequate medical care which must be paid for, all this quite apart from teachers and supervisors and houseparents.

One may well ask whether the Society must continue to carry this burden, a burden which although reducing in size because of all the steps we are taking, nevertheless runs at a cost of approximately £½ million a year. This is a complex question but the answer to a great part of it is that the Society has always accepted the challenge of looking after those spastics who Local Authorities are unable to look after.

## Frightening consequences

Few Local Authorities will bear the cost of a spastic at a Society School or adult Centre if they can avoid doing so by using their own facilities, but in practice, particularly amongst the smaller Local Authorities, the facilities do not exist. If you have a simple and uncomplicated handicap many Local Authorities will be able to look after you, but if in addition to the physical effects of cerebral palsy you also have a speech defect and perhaps a degree of mental handicap, then very few Local Authorities are able to provide what is required and quite sensibly they come to the Society and ask if we will take over.

The financial consequences of this situation are frightening and only the concerted effort of voluntary workers, helped and aided by employed staff, can hope to measure up to the task of raising the considerable sums which are required.

National Spastics Week, the purpose of which is to unite all the Groups of the Society in a single effort to bring their problem to the notice of the community, will place both the spotlight and the magnifying glass on the tremendous problems which the Society and its affiliated bodies face, and so often face alone.

## From the director



## ABROAD — WITH A CONTRAPTION

### By C. A. Wigan

MY FRIEND JO was an arthritic and her far-seeing mother had given her a car when the first symptoms appeared at the age of 30. Thereafter driving became as easy to her as walking is to me. She was so enormously active in ways other than walking that I didn't think of her as a cripple. In fact she was a source of strength to very many.

The two of us went on unescorted journeys abroad every Spring and sometimes Autumn as well, for nine years. "The contraption" was her invention and gave us our meals till evening on our journeys.

It is 31" x 25" x 3", made of 3-ply wood with strong reinforcement where necessary and covered with Fablon.

Circular and rectangular holes of

various sizes take kettle, saucepan, two butane gas stoves, plates, cups, tins for biscuits, tea, coffee, powdered milk, a Thermos for butter and another for elevenses, which we made at breakfast time.

It occupied the front seat in the Rover beside Jo while we were travelling, but it was possible to take it out, as we did when we stayed in Rome for Easter, because the sisters in our convent loved to come for drives with us.

Under the contraption we took enormous quantities of carefully chosen tins of meat, crisp bread, vegetables, marmalade and home-made fruit cake. All this was listed

and put into carrier bags marked Week I, Week II, etc.

Sometimes we drove for a couple of hours to find a really good breakfast spot. It might be by a wooded slope as we entered Italy, with beautiful clumps of Christmas rose among the mossy tree stumps. Or beside Lake Maggiore with a sparkling rivulet tumbling down precipice and running under the road to the lake. That was a view for breakfast and a scullery for washing up in one.

The continental roads, other than motorways, give one so much freedom, but the hazards are considerable.

Thanks to the independence

given us by "the contraption" we travelled far afield.

We explored as far East as Adana, across the Taurus Range, and as far South as Sicily. And, taking the car part of the way by sea, we visited the Holy Land three times, which was a source of deep satisfaction.

If any reader could use "the contraption" I would be happy to give it ready equipped for a new lease of life.

As a friend wrote to me about Jo—"She made the very most of every single day"—I often think of that. And it was this "contraption" that helped her to do so.

(If any reader would care to apply for it to this office their letters will be forwarded to Miss Wigan—Editor).

The only naval officer to be blinded during the Second World War, Esmond Knight fought back and resumed a successful acting career. Here, he tells Therese Appleby how he learned to be . . .

# A good blind man

I SHOUTED down the hatch to someone: "It's Empire Day!" Three-quarters of an hour afterwards, on the bridge of the Prince of Wales, bursts came from the Bismarck and killed everyone except three chaps and me. They died later when the ship sank . . .

After the accident they took those who were alive down below, and buried the dead at sea on the way to Iceland. There I stayed for the whole summer of 1941 and then I came back and was sent to St. Dunstan's.

One could not really grasp the fact that one was blinded for life. The shock came when I got to St. Dunstan's, because I really had expected to get better.

In fact, my left eye is a glass one. I have had a cataract operation and three other operations on my right eye but there is only 20 per cent vision. I can just see out of the corner of it.

I can't read at all. That's an irritation. And I can't drive at all, so I'm dependent on buses and taxis. But I took up painting. My hearing was not injured and one tends to use one's other faculties more, although it's a mistake to think other faculties take over.

## Worse off

Luckily I have a good imagination and I can remember what things were like before I was blind. My wife encouraged me to paint and this gives me a lot of pleasure.

It's interesting how you develop your other faculties. I use hearing for crossing a road. I know when I get near to a door. But all the time I have to memorise where things are—by feeling. I've evolved a definite system so that I know where they are or I can define their shade.

I think it is a question of luck. And the kind of disposition one has. The point is, however, chewed up you are, there are people a darn sight worse off. If you are a person who has to be out and about you have to evolve a method of keeping your independence.

First of all, I felt I was going to be caged. So this method of evolving a system of getting around is essential.

I was completely blind for two years, then I started back in radio in which I told a true story about some naval episode. I had to learn it by heart because although I did learn Braille I could not read it quickly enough. But I do react

against Braille because it is an admission that you are blind.

St. Dunstan's also said: "Be a good blind man. Don't think you are going to get better because you are not. The sooner you realise this, the sooner you learn to become independent." And there are hundreds of chaps doing very responsible manual and administrative jobs who are stone blind.

## Took a risk

It's odd, this question of sight, because the only thing one misses as a blind person is the actual vision of the moment. Now I have to look sideways to see you but I have not the least idea what you look like. Yet when you are gone I will have a sharp picture of you sitting there. So that the only thing one really lacks is the true picture of the moment.

In getting back to my career, I was so frightfully lucky. All the time there were people willing to encourage me and take the risk of using me through the medium of rehearsals. In acting, one has this period of time when one can practice. When I first did a film people thought I had my vision back—I gave the appearance of being perfectly normal.

In Richard III I used landmarks such as trees for riding a horse or in sword fights. I have just that small part of my eye that can see an object. It seemed like a sick joke in the universe that he should have landed in our cradle.

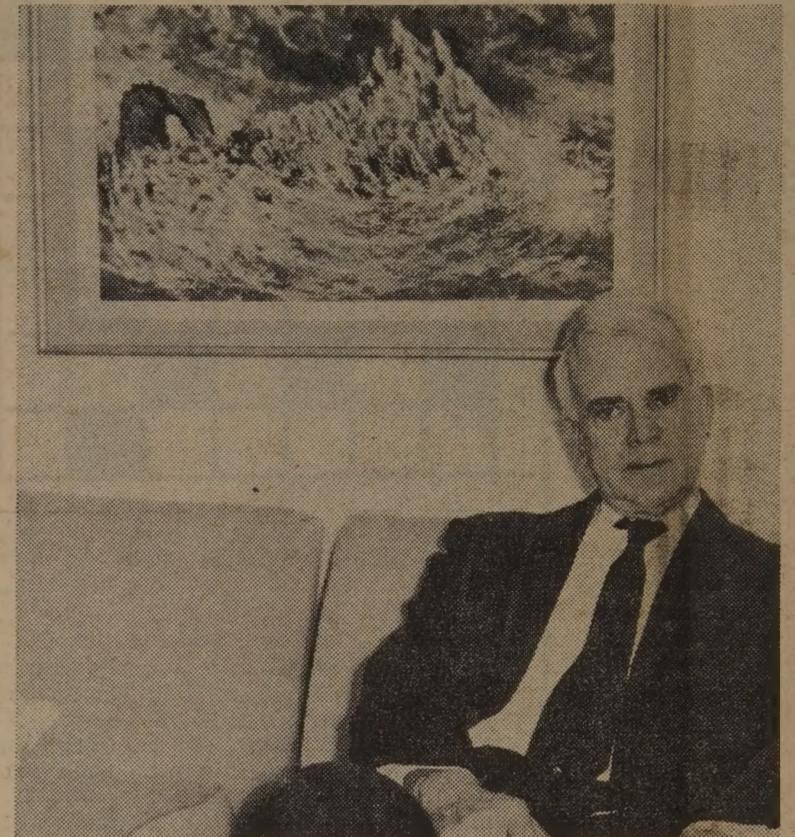
We have always realised, I think, that we were wrong to place so much importance on a quality that makes no difference to anyone's worth as a "good" person. But, as the past months have underlined, you cannot in deep disappointments escape your own prejudices and inadequacies. You just have to make sure you cope with them, without allowing guilty feelings to get in the way of your natural love for the child.

## Ankle tap

Of course, I cannot see a cue sign for films, so somebody lies on the floor out of the range of the camera and crawls along and gives me a tap on the ankle when it is time to talk.

Luckily, a lot of people are willing to play with me. Because I cannot read from a script I get somebody to read it out and I write the letters the size of a thumb and learn the script before the rehearsal.

And if there are any alterations I quickly go back and write them out in very square



Esmond Knight at home. One of his paintings is in the background.

lettering on white paper. Luckily, getting older has not slowed down my speed at learning.

And through it all, my wife has been wonderful—always behind me to get on with my painting and my reading.

And shall I tell you an inter-

esting thing? I was the only naval officer to get blinded during the war and I was the only one of the totally blinded people at St. Dunstan's to get better.

But then—I'm a lucky person. People have always been terribly kind.

## COMIN CHI

know that to make progress, periods of calm would inevitably be followed by depression which would equally inevitably be followed by calm. There was no such thing as suddenly coming to terms with the situation. It had to be like climbing a series of hills up a mountain: the overall direction is upwards, but at times you'd hardly guess it.

What we tried to avoid—of the author is a professional poet. The way in reacted to the news that was neither physically nor be of inspiration to others the same t

## An early hurdle

In the daily experience of our infant's growth the prejudices were much easier to get rid of than we feared. That Tom is our own son is an argument against snobbishness so weighty that less-worthy emotions cannot possibly be maintained. This stage was an early hurdle in coming to terms with his condition.

The process may be described as a hardening of the emotions. The two big enemies are mere sentiment and inevitable depression.

Our counter to depression is no doubt very hack psychology, not worth much to anyone except ourselves. All we did was to try to anticipate the next stage in our emotions. The law involved was simple: if we were to recover happiness we must be patient and

course it isn't always easy—was being worried by the low periods. In any case, we believed they were valuable as a sign that we were, perhaps unconsciously, facing some fact about our son that we had, up to then, shelved mentally.

We had this thing going between us that we must look the problem square in the face and not shy of talking about it to anyone, even strangers, if the situation arose. For one thing, we removed the natural sentimental taboo on using words in family conversation usually regarded in such circumstances as in bad taste. We would even permit words like "dim" or "dull"—any

# Let's all work for all spastics

I WAS very interested to read the letter from Miss Margaret Mather, in the July issue of "Spastics News." As the father of a very severely handicapped spastic son, I felt that I would like to answer one or two of the points raised.

The figures mentioned by the Director, that 50 per cent of all sufferers from cerebral palsy have some degree of intellectual impairment, are no doubt true. We must never forget that for every intelligent spastic there are several with mental handicaps who, through lack of proper facilities, are condemned to spend the best part of their lives in the grossly overcrowded wards of mental hospitals.

How can the Director be accused of doing a grave disservice to the cause of spastics by bringing to the notice of the public the plight of these spastics who for so long have been pushed into the background?

## HAD TO LEAVE

I agree that spastics with normal intelligence and many who are highly intelligent, have a hard job convincing people they come in contact with that they are normal, but surely this is only due to the ignorance of people who do not know what cerebral palsy is all about. From my experience, once the condition is explained to them, they adopt an entirely different attitude.

Surely there is no stigma attached to persons because they are mentally as well as

physically handicapped. Let us never forget that "There, but for the grace of God, go I," and count our blessings.

I am sure that the Spastics Society will gain more support from the public if it honestly strives to help all spastics, the intelligent and the less intelligent alike.

For several years my son went to a local spastics Centre, but now we have been told that they can do no more for him so he has had to leave. Obviously the question of parent relief has been totally disregarded. Now our son is at home all the time and the only alternative we have been offered is a bed in a mental hospital.

To quote from an article in "The Sunday Times": "Through the Society's efforts, no other group of handicapped people, with the possible exception of the blind, is so well looked after. And any parent who has a spastic child is not faced with the desperate worry of 'What will happen when I am gone?' — the answer is that the Spastics Society will provide."

If only that were true in the case of all spastics! Believe me, many of us who have severely handicapped spastic children and adults have the desperate worry of what will happen now, let alone worrying about what will happen when we have gone. Let us work together for the benefit of all spastics, including the "Joe Eggs" of this world.

GEOFFREY B. SPEED.  
Police House,  
The Green,  
Sarratt, Rickmansworth,  
Herts.

## Any pen friends?

I AM WRITING to you, hoping that you can help me to find a pen-friend. I already have four female ones, so this time I would prefer a male if possible.

I am a spastic, intelligent and have a good sense of humour. I am 24-years-old, and my hobbies are pen-friends, pop music, clothes, reading and boys — nice ones, of course.

PATRICIA ANN HULME  
(Miss)

26, Manchester Road East,  
Little Hulton,  
Worsley,  
Near Manchester,  
M28 6LG.

I am a 36-year-old spastic, and would very much like to have a penfriend, preferably male and around my own age. Would any of your readers be interested in corresponding with me?

E. WOODBINE (Miss),  
The Beeches,  
Skipton Road,  
Edgbaston.

## Hospital closures

AT THE PRESENT time concern is being expressed in many parts of the country about the closure of hospitals.

Whilst it is efficient and economic sense to concentrate expensive facilities in district general hospitals the long term care of spastic and other severely handicapped children may be better provided for locally.

Until recently spastic children from the Ribblesdale Area of Yorkshire had to go 50 or 60 miles to hospital. Distance restricts the visiting of parents and the leave home which should be part of the lives of the children. This situation has been met by the establishment of a small unit for 10 children in a hospital in the centre of that predominantly rural area with a population of 78,000.

Staffing the unit has presented no difficulty as it has brought jobs for nurses living in the district. Parents can visit their children frequently and take them home more often. Considerable local interest and help from voluntary and charitable organizations has been attracted.

D. A. SPENCER  
M.B. Ch.B., D.P.M.,  
Medical Director.



Miss Banks, on holiday, visits a model village. Soon the public may hear her songs, if recording plans go ahead.

## SONGS OF PROMISE

I AM a spastic, aged 33, and a member of the Sheffield and District Society. I am writing to tell you how much I enjoy reading "Spastics News." Everything in it is so interesting. I found the August edition especially so.

I particularly enjoyed the article in which Mr. Michael Flanders was interviewed by Therese Appleby. I hold Mr. Flanders in high esteem and greatly respect him for having found the courage, perseverance and determination to overcome his physical disabilities so well and make such a success of his life and career.

My main interest in the direction of the theatre is in music. Early in 1967 I wrote the lyrics of seven songs, two of which have since been set to music. Following the advice of the home visitor of the Sheffield society, I sent copies of my lyrics to Mr. David Jacobs, whose reply was most encouraging. He said my lyrics hold great promise and he has advised me to have them set to music, tape-recorded and returned to him.

MARION BANKS (Miss),  
11, Norwood Crescent,  
Kiveton Park,  
Sheffield, S31 8PL.

## POSTSCRIPT

Miss Banks has the lyrics she writes set to music by a London firm; they are love songs in ballad style, and folk songs.

She has been writing poetry, short stories and lyrics since she was 17 but as yet has not had anything published.

But now that may all change. She has heard from Paul and Georgina Smith that they should be able to help her with the problem of getting her songs recorded so that she can let Mr. Jacobs hear them, as he has asked.

And they have undertaken to record the songs themselves or to find someone to do so.

## PROBLEMS

I AM INTERESTED in parents' problems of lifting and carrying spastics in their own homes.

Parents often do this as best they can, struggling for years and injuring their health in the process.

I wonder if those who have come up against this and have strong views on the subject would write to me, at 29, Glanleam Road, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Would they have welcomed advice from trained first-aiders about the correct way to lift a person? And if their health now prevents them doing such strenuous tasks, what alternative solutions have they found?

Such information will help me write a constructive article on the subject. (All names and addresses will be treated as confidential).

JENNIFER MARKS  
(Miss)

29, Glanleam Road,  
Stanmore,  
Middlesex.

## Push-over for the Champ

JUST before he won the British title from Brian London 10 years ago, Henry Cooper, the new European, British and Empire heavyweight champion, pushed over a pile of pennies at the Woodman, Blackfriars.

And when recently he visited the Woodman again to perform the same service in aid of the Spastics Society he was hoping that it would prove a good omen for his September European title date with Karl Mildenberger at Wembley.

That pile of pennies, too, proved a push-over for one of Britain's best-liked masters.

The collection, which made £66, was organised by Mr. Jack Sellick and Mr. Arthur Baker with the backing of the host, Mr. G. H. Jones.

Picture shows (left to right) Mr. Baker, the Rev. David Silk (of the Church of the Good Shepherd), Mr. Sellick, Mr. Jones, Henry Cooper and Mr. Tom Paine. (Photo courtesy of Kentish Times).



## COMING TO TERMS WITH CHILD ABNORMALITY

progress, would increase by degrees equally slow by no such coming to fruition. It is climbing a mountain: on it is up to you to avoid—of

thing, providing it was not used with unkind intent. It got so that we could joke about certain things without feeling guilty or upset, and I think that was helpful for us.

If our two-year-old daughter, for instance, comments bluntly about some aspect of her brother's appearance or behaviour, our only response is to agree, and agree with some interest. It is true, and

professional journalist and a public way in which he and his wife news that their newly-arrived son physically nor mentally normal may mean to others who have to face up to the same tragic facts.

her observation is a kindly one.

Of course, when Tom is older it will be different and more tact will be needed. But we want our daughter to learn about his condition openly, not get news from some callous schoolfriend. No-one in our family is going to be ashamed for our son—and we mean that fiercely.

There is this difference between our view of his development and that of a normal baby—we do not expect so much, nor do we get quite the same excitement from it. However, we do get some considerable excitement as he masters something new and I don't want to play that down.

Because we cannot help getting

in the of talking one, even situation, we regard the words conversation in such circumstances bad taste. mit words full—"any

fonder and fonder of him, we want to be efficient parents for him. Luckily his appearance does not prevent him from appearing attractive, at least to us, and he is responsive and affectionate to our attentions. That's why we are so keen to learn the special ways we can help him as he grows older.

We shall try to visit special schools long before he is old enough to go to them. We shall read plenty of books and magazine articles, even technical ones. Anywhere we think help might be available we shall just ask. Experience already is that on a subject like this no-one holds back—specialists or organisations—so we do not plan to be shy in asking.

Our best hope is in the considerable present-day advances in training handicapped children. Journalistic experience helps me in seeking these out but my main tactic is just to keep asking questions.

I do have one plea. It is that the health services will develop a really-useful "information kit" which is given to all parents of children like ours, whether they ask for it or not. I want to find out how to help my son a year or more in advance of his need of that help, so that I'm sure I have done my homework properly and do not miss my chance of aiding him. Information that comes only when the time seems ripe is often information that comes too late.

# Leading a full life in 'steel town'

ANNE PLUMMER  
at Scunthorpe

**THERE HAD BEEN** a long-felt need of residential care for adult spastics in Lincolnshire, but none of the individual Groups in the county was rich enough to tackle the problem alone. However, the Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford and Scunthorpe Groups decided to pool existing resources and, with a massive fund-raising drive, collected £30,000 in five years.

The Centre was purpose-built on a two-acre woodland site in Brumby Wood Lane, Scunthorpe, and its architects won a Civic Trust award for the way in which the building harmonised with its surroundings. Indoors, the one-storey house has the feeling of cheerful modern spaciousness common to most newly-built spastics' centres, but there are many individual touches such as tropical fish tanks and an aviary in the central courtyard.

## First-name terms

The first residents moved in during April 1966. The Warden, Mr. D. Hazelton, started at the same time and has built up the atmosphere of happy informality which characterises the place. Residents and staff, except the Warden, are all on first-name terms. There are few rules and regulations and nobody has to go to bed at a set time. Many of the residents are severely handicapped (seventeen in wheelchairs) and this means organising a complicated rota of late and early duties for house-parent staff. However Mr. Hazelton feels that this is worthwhile if it helps maintain the free and easy atmosphere.

The twenty-six residents, whose ages range from 16 to 34, are employed for a full five-day week in the workshop where they are joined daily by

four other spastics who live nearby.

## Far afield

Mr. E. Wood, the Workshop Manager, explained that Scunthorpe itself is a "steel town" with little light industry and he had to go as far afield as Grimsby, Hull and Rugby in order to build up a regular supply of sub-contract work. At the time of my visit, some of the workers were preparing components for hydraulic brakes — pulling surplus rubber away from the pieces which had been stamped into shape. Others were hooking small plastic loops together for curtain glides — ten thousand of these had been done in one day by eight workers. Three more young men were drilling parts for electric motors.

Perhaps the most important work done, however, is the assembly of plastic boxes for such things as pens, fishing tackle or cosmetics — by no means as easy as it looks. Most of the pen boxes go for export and Mr. Wood told me that he has often taken a consignment from the centre and watched it being loaded straight onto a truck for the airport. Nobody had bothered to open the cardboard containers and check the goods — proof of that firm's confidence in work done by spastics. "I'm very proud of them all," said Mr. Wood.

## Social life

Workshop equipment has been adapted to suit individual handicaps and the employees work in teams, so that the more able can help the others. The production line is organised so that even the most severely handicapped can make a contribution. Their basic wage is £2 a month with an extra £1 incentive bonus, and

further bonuses at holiday times. The residents receive this in addition to the 18/- per week which is the usual National Assistance allowance for disabled people in residential centres.

Apart from this worthwhile daily occupation, the residents lead a very full social life. They have a Discotheque evening every week and a Social Club once a month when the staff disappears, leaving the residents to entertain members of a local Youth Club. Big fund-raising dances are also held at a nearby club every so often.

## Fish and chips

All the residents go regularly to wrestling matches in Scunthorpe and surrounding towns, and Jackie Pallo and Mick McManus have visited the centre. Outings are arranged to local theatres when well-known pop groups and other entertainers are appearing. It caused great excitement when The Love Affair came to the centre recently. Frequent film shows are also held at the centre, and cookery and art classes are arranged for those who wish to attend.

Results from the latter are often surprisingly good. Mr. Hazelton told me that residents' paintings shown at a recent fete could have been sold several times over. Some of these were done by people who, until recently, had never held a brush before.

Outings to the coast and local beauty spots are usually arranged on the spur of the moment, according to weather. Recently, on returning from such an excursion everybody, including the Warden, sat on the floor eating fish and chips from newspapers a novel experience for most of the spastics.

## Strange garb

Voluntary hairdressers come in once a week to set the hair of the more handicapped girls, while those who are mobile go to the shop to get their hair done in the ordinary way. A cosmetics expert also visits the centre sometimes to demonstrate and advise the girls on how to make the best of themselves.

The more severely handicapped usually have to be accompanied on shopping trips, but once there, the choice of purchase is left entirely to the individual resident. Mr. Hazelton pointed out that this policy resulted in the appearance of some extraordinary garments at first, but he felt it was



The purpose-built Scunthorpe Centre, which is set in two acres of woodland.

important to the self-respect of the residents to be able to choose their own clothes.

They are also encouraged to put up their own decorations and pin-ups in the bed-sitters, and no special tidying-up is done for visitors. "If the Queen came here," said Mr. Hazelton, "She's as liable as anyone to see a pair of dirty panties or socks thrown onto the bed."

The bed-sitters are far from institutional with their gay furnishings and French windows which open onto a paved walk and give a pleasant view of grass and trees. Most of the rooms are double, but some have three or four beds while others are single.

## Coming home

Terry Cooper, who has featured before in "Spastics News" as Scunthorpe's "Electronics Wizard," has a single room. This is just as well, for it is so full of radio equipment, there is hardly room for his bed. Terry is a keen radio "HAM" and picks up messages from all over the world on a receiver which he has assembled himself. He also takes to pieces old TV sets and is at present working on a super-sensitive microphone.

"I hope he hasn't got my office bugged," said Mr. Hazelton, good-humouredly, and I wondered how many Wardens of the old school would have allowed one of their residents to pursue a hobby which takes up so much room.

Scunthorpe is a far cry from the old workhouse-style institution for the disabled, with its long dormitories of iron bedsteads, each with one locker, and grey-clad inmates doing basket work in the Occupational Therapy room.

Residents talk of "Coming home" to the centre even when staying in their parents' houses, and tears are only seen when it closes down at holiday times. The only way in which, perhaps, it differs from a rather large family household is in the enormous number of visitors who come. Parties are shown round on an average of twice a week and forty-three women's organisations have visited it already this year.

## No easy task

Many of the visitors are contributors to the funds of the six Lincolnshire groups, who come to see how their money is being spent and are encouraged to give still more. Mr. Hazelton stressed his appreciation of the support from the Groups who, he said, give him "A hundred and fifty per cent help in every way."

It is not an easy task for even though the Spastics Society pays one third of the running costs, the six Groups still have to find about £450 a week to keep the centre going.

# Plea to industry for handicapped

A PLEA for Scottish industry to change their attitude towards the employment of handicapped people was made by Mr. John Oswald, a lecturer at Paisley College of Technology and a member of the sub-committee of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Speaking in Glasgow, Mr. Oswald said that the time was right for industry to reassess their ideas about the employment of the handicapped. Too often the handicapped were not employed because they looked different from most people, but often they were just as capable at certain skills.

He said that the Scottish Council planned to set up an assessment unit at the spastics work centre at Hillington.

This would help obtain information on what spastics could do, which he regarded as more important than what they could not do.

## HAPPY EVENT X 10

JACQUES Hall Centre in Essex recently began keeping pigs. On Saturday, August 31, a rather plump pig was bought at the local market and brought back to the Centre.

She must have liked it there because on the following day she gave birth to 10 piglets—and did it all under her own steam.

Mother and family are doing well, and it is hoped that the staff of the Centre will make a quick recovery also.

A further happy event at Jacques was an offer from Mr. McNair who farms the fields surrounding the Centre, and who gave the Centre a field full of straw for use by the pigs.

## 'Albert Tatlock' opens gala

A gala sports day at the Miners' Welfare Ground at Micklefield was designed to find money for seaside holiday accommodation for local spastics and their families.

Mr. Jack Howarth—Albert Tatlock of "Coronation Street"—and his wife opened the event.

A prize band, an archery display, races, pony rides and an exhibition of dancing were among the events staged. The £195 made from the gala is additional to £54 from a concert earlier at the Miners' Welfare Club and £10 from street collections.

And almost £23 was raised when Mr. Norman Dean toured Allerton Bywater with his Dutch organ on two evenings.

## Action of man who pocketed charity cash 'despicable'

THE GENEROSITY of people in giving to collections such as those for the Spastics Society was referred to at Buckingham Magistrates Court when a surgical appliance salesman, Ralph George Frederick Attoe, admitted four charges involving fraud and asked for 75 other offences to be taken into account.

The additional list of offences concerned sums of five shillings to a guinea which he told donors would be given to the "Children's Polio Fund" and the "Children's Spastic Fund." Instead, he pocketed the money.

Mr. Tom Mallett, the chairman told him: "This gives some idea of how generous people are in giving to collections of this nature. I think your action was despicable."

Attoe told the magistrates: "The whole thing snowballed." He had been under considerable strain.

## BUS STOP

# ANY OFFERS?

Any offers for a special purpose motor-coach with room for six upright and two reclining wheelchairs, and two attendants?

The call comes from the Castel Froma Coach Committee, whose chairman is Mr. J. L. D. Guest (28 Lonsdale Road, Leamington Spa). His committee is considering the purchase of another vehicle and asks any organisation associated with The Spastics

Society for offers for the present vehicle.

Details: Dennis "Heron" chassis; P4 diesel engine, registered June 1960; mileage 14,000. Equipment includes a toilet and a hydraulic ramp. Write to Mr. Guest.



Mr. Wilson, assistant workshop manager, shows how to prepare the rubber parts for hydraulic brakes.

## Picnic at the rally

Spastics from the Castleford and District Spastics Society were guests of the Leeds Traction Engine Club at a rally at Harewood House.

Accompanied by relatives and society officials, they enjoyed a picnic tea provided by the Leeds club, and as well as the normal attractions of the rally, there were games in which relatives competed.

## And John lost his fear of water...

VERY nervous of water—that was Mr. John Batchelor, a disabled York printer only 12 months ago. But now, he has become the first member of his local spastics group to swim a length and qualify for their special proficiency certificate.

Mr. Batchelor, who is 27, lives at 30 Swinnerton Avenue. The secretary and organiser of the York and District Spastics Group, Coun. L. Daley, said that the achievement was all the more impressive because John was "very nervous of water" before he joined the swimming section.

The group hope that other organisations for handicapped people will help swell the numbers at the swimming sessions.



Mr. Batchelor receives congratulations—and his certificate—at the conclusion of his qualifying swim.

(Photo Yorkshire Evening Press).

## This is how it works

**TO OPERATE** the unit and select any desired function, simply requires continuous suction on the pneumatic tube. This will cause a white light to start travelling slowly round the indicator and, at the same time, an audible clicking will be heard from the control unit.

When the desired function has been reached by the white light, releasing the suction or pressure on the microswitch will cause the device concerned to be switched on and, at the same time, the indicator will turn from green to red confirming this. The audible clicking, and thus the selection rate, can be varied by a speed switch at the back of the unit.

## How to attract the Possum

**THE Possum Selector Unit—the control for which typewriter systems for use by spastics and athetoids were developed—is now available under the National Health Scheme.**

Mr. C. David Hyde, of the P.O.S.M. Research Project at Aylesbury, told "Spastics News" that this provision is realised by only a few disabled people. The unit available, the basic environmental control, gives those with severe disabilities the ability to control their immediate environment and to operate an emergency control system.

It puts at their disposal remote on/off control over as many as 11 electrical devices; it can be operated by mouth or by microswitch. There is, among its many safety features, a stand-by battery to cope with power failure. Although 50 units have been

issued by the Ministry, only one person suffering from cerebral palsy has received one, due largely, says Mr. Hyde, to lack of publicity.

Any readers who feel the unit might be beneficial should contact their G.P. or hospital consultant. At a later stage, if the provision of the equipment is approved, it is installed and maintained on a yearly basis.

It would be helpful if applicants could notify the P.O.S.M. Research Unit when making the initial approach, and any comments or special requirements would be useful. The address is 63 Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, or the Ministry of Health.

## Thirty-five who found employment

**THIRTY-FIVE** spastics have recently found employment ranging from van-driving to kennel work. They are:

**ALAN BASHFORD** from Reigate, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre is working locally as a general clerk for Redland Holding Ltd.

**JUNE CRANE** from Nottingham, who trained at Sherrards, is working locally as an instrument assembler.

**PAUL DAVIES** from Blackwood, is employed at the local Remploy.

**GLENYS DEAMER** from Wootton, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre is now working as a stock control clerk for a firm in Bedford.

**EDWINA HIRST** from Seacroft, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, is now employed locally by the Yorkshire Electricity Board—her work consists of filing and general clerical duties.

**STEVEN JOYCE** from Child Okeford, is employed as a storeman for a local electrical contractor.

**ANNE LINTON** from Ramsgate, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre has changed her job and is now working as a filing clerk in the Central Filing Department of the Society's Headquarters in London.

**GERLINDA MENTZEL** from Bournemouth, has been working for some time with a local firm of solicitors.

**JUDITH MURRAY** from Gosforth is working on a trial basis as a receptionist for Avon Hotel Co. (Newcastle) Ltd.

**ELIZABETH McNALLY** from Birkenhead, who trained

at Sherrards, is now employed as an assistant in the warehouse and packing department of the Merwick Toy Co., in Wallasey.

**ROGER TIBBLES** from Sydenham, has returned to his former job as a lift attendant and porter at a London Departmental store.

**NEVILLE WATERFIELD** from Shaw, is working as a cotton operative at Lily Mills.

**ALAN CHANDLER** from Whitley, near Reading, is working as a clerk in the office of a local garage.

**RAYMOND CHILDS** from Southgate has changed his job and is now employed as a van driver by C. J. Hunt & Co., London, N.11.

**FRANK COLLEY** from Worcester, who has recently completed a course of Further Education at Dene Park, is working locally on a trial basis at the Cinderella Shoe Factory. He is operating a machine for splitting leather.

**RICHARD COLLINS** from Aldbury, near Tring, who trained at Sherrards, is working locally at the Meacham Kennels, as a kennel boy.

**PETER COSEDGE** from Bexleyheath, who trained at Sherrards, has changed his job and is now working for David Greig (Grocers) in Dartford.

**MICHAEL NADEN** from Macclesfield, who trained at Sherrards, is employed as a cleaner by Macclesfield Corporation.

**KATHLEEN O'CONNOR** from Kenilworth, who trained at Sherrards, is doing light assembly work at a local factory.

**STUART PEACE** from Bex-

hill, is employed on office work by Messrs. Brooker, at St. Leonards.

**MRS. LILIAN REID** from Thatcham, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, is now working locally for Reeds Corrugated Paper Ltd.

**JACQUELINE SHEDD** from Redruth, who trained at Sherrards, is now employed as an assembly operator by the Rank Organisation (Bush Murphy Division) in Redruth.

**DAVID SIMS** from Treheribis, has a new job and is now working as a bank messenger for Barclays in Cardiff.

**IAN THOMAS** from Marazion who trained with Sherrards is working as a machine operator at Remploy in Redruth.

**ANDREW WALKER** from Watford, has changed his job and is now employed at a Car

## Bits and Pieces

**TOO MANY PIANOS**—that was the problem facing the Wallasey Spastics and Physically Handicapped Association after they made an appeal for one through their local newspaper. "The large number of offers made it difficult to choose," said the association's chairman, Mr. T. E. Davies, "but we are now fixed up with a fine instrument."

\* \* \*

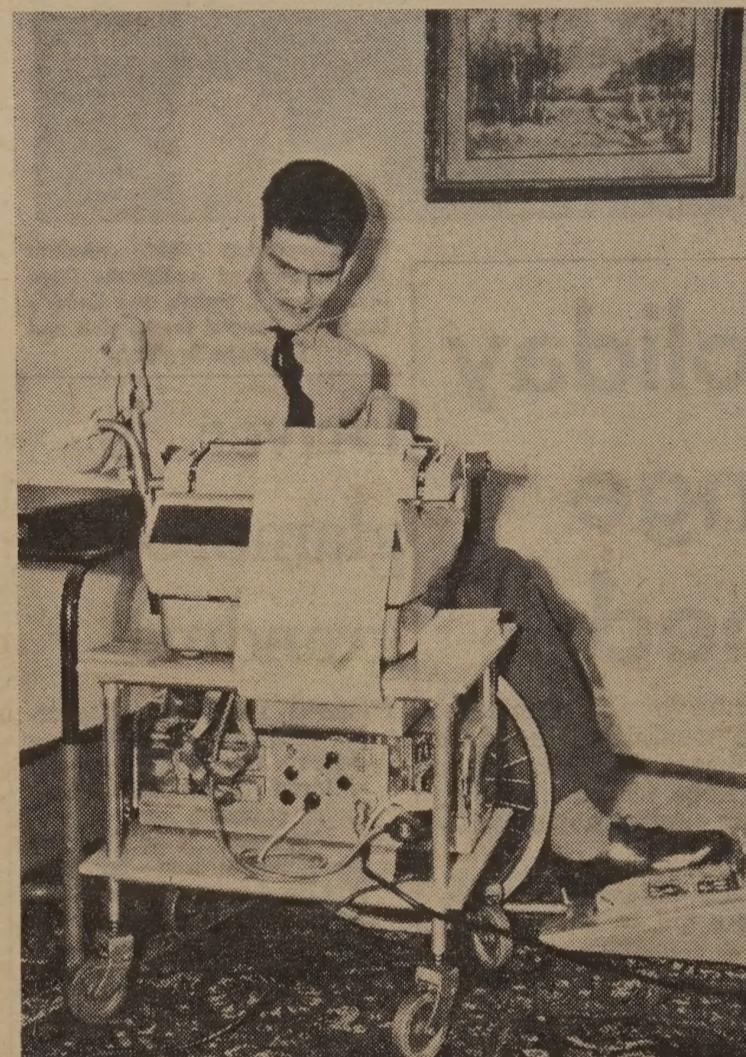
**Stockton housewife**, Theresa Bell, aged 35, was fined £3 and ordered to pay costs when, at Stockton Court, she pleaded guilty to two charges of stealing a total of 7s. 1½d. from a Teeside Spastics Society collecting box.

\* \* \*

**London '62 Club** are holding a dinner and dance on Saturday, October 26, at the T.A. Parachute Regiment H.Q., Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush—opposite the White City tube station. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. J. Bundock, Flat 4, 188 Ramsden Road, S.W.12. They cost 15s. each.

\* \* \*

**Children from the Tiptree Group of schools in Essex** made a donation to local spastic children last Christmas. The money has now been spent on a treatment mat, dolls, puzzles and other toys for the Physiotherapy Department which the Chelmsford Group runs in conjunction with a local Hospital.



A spastic, Dick Boydell of Oakwood Further Education Centre, operating a Possum typewriter by foot control. At the present time these are not issued under the National Health Scheme, but it is hoped that the Ministry of Health will recognise the needs of spastics with speech communication difficulties and consider making suitable aids available.

## Out goes call for sound ideas

**A SOUND magazine for circulation to spastics with tape recorders is planned by Mr. Dudley Kitching, of Owston View, Lodge Road, Carkcroft, Doncaster.** Mr. Kitching, who is 48, this month sent out an invitation to fellow-spastics of any age group to join in.

"Send me tape recordings of your own voices or groups, etcetera, which depict how you live, what you think of your own world and of the world at large, any interesting experiences and any difficulties they have overcome in their everyday life. I want to try to compile a presentation tape of the sound magazine type which could be circulated to anyone with a tape recorder and who is interested."

### NATION-WIDE

Mr. Kitching pointed out that tapes should be of the long-play kind, of a well known brand, and suggests a three-inch reel, twin-track recording at 3½ inches per second. "All recordings should open with the name, age and address of the senders. Although I cannot promise to acknowledge all tapes received, I will endeavour to do so in some form or the other," said Mr. Kitching. "In the meantime, I would welcome the co-operation of any recording clubs who could take time out to record material from people who do not possess recorders but have a 'story.'"

A project like this, he said, might easily develop into a nation-wide one, of interest and help both to physically disabled people and those who are interested in their welfare.

### Redhill riders

A gymkhana held at Pink Barn Stables, Redhill, Surrey, raised £75 for local spastics.

## G.C.E. SUCCESSES

The following are the results of successful pupils of the Thomas Delarue School in the recent G.C.E. examinations:

### Advanced Level

Stephen Burton, English History. Michael Chope, Geology, Art. Carol Euston, English. Clifford Haynes, Geology (Ordinary). John Per, English. Malcolm Tyler, History, Additional Mathematics (Ordinary).

### Ordinary Level

Nicholas Bentley, Geography. Andreas Bohacz, Mathematics.



Some members of the Nottingham Luncheon Club for Mothers of Spastic Children enjoying an outing to the Pine Bank Day Centre, run by the Chesterfield and District Spastics Society.

Physics. Jane Bramall, English Language, English Literature. William Dandy, History. Amanda Deed, English Language, English Literature. Robert Findlay, Bible Knowledge, History, Geography, Mathematics. Richard Gamble, Bible Knowledge, History, Geography, Mathematics. Victor Gerhardi, Geography, Physics, Geom. & Building Drawing. Sharon Hennigan, Bible Knowledge, History, Geography. Stephen Jones, Bible Knowledge, History, Geography. Mary Lee, English Language, English Literature. Jean Marshall, Bible Knowledge, History, Geography. Carol Nelson, English Language, English Literature. John Runciman, English Language, English Literature. Hugh Silver, History, Geography, Mathematics, Geom. & Mech. Drawing. Susan Stevenson, Art. Kathryn Stone, Bible Knowledge, French. Ann Trotman, Bible Knowledge, Geography.

### College of Preceptors

Andrew Coleman, Technical Drawing; Paul Norton, Technical Drawing; John Runciman, Technical Drawing.



Mr. Hargreaves (right) receives the illuminated certificate from Mr. Henry J. Rolph, the Order's Inspector General for London and Southern England.

## Home holiday exchange launched

A home holiday exchange scheme for the physically disabled is now available—with the possibility later of an overseas exchange if there is sufficient demand. The organisers, based in Cambridge, hope to put disabled people in touch with others offering similar home facilities.

Their prospectus says:

"This Home Holiday Exchange has been devised especially for the physically disabled. The scheme enables families to exchange homes at holiday times so that the disabled members benefit from any adaptations or modifications made to the respective dwellings. Such a basis of home exchange means that holiday costs can be kept to a minimum because there are no accommodation charges."

"Home owner/occupiers are invited to join the scheme providing they, or a member of the family living with them, are so physically disabled as to require special home environment adaptations or conditions not normally encountered in holiday hotels and guest houses."

"On receipt of completed application forms together with the registration fee, we will endeavour to put applicants in touch with others offering similar home facilities during the required holiday periods. Only if and when an exchange is agreed upon by both families does the full exchange fee become due."

### The choice

The organisers of the scheme were responsible, in a voluntary capacity, for the authorship of the "Disabled Person's Guide to Cambridge". During the research period, they received many requests for help in finding both temporary and permanent accommodation for people who are physically disabled. It was soon evident that although such accommodation was not easily available, a need existed. They decided to try and discover sources of suitable holiday accommodation, and that is why the scheme was planned.

The choice of home exchange is from a country, seaside, or town locality in England, Wales and Scotland. Provided there is

sufficient demand overseas exchanges will be introduced as soon as practicable.

Application forms are available from:—  
Home Holiday Exchange Scheme for the Physically Disabled,  
S. B. Mailing Services,  
5 Pretoria Road,  
Cambridge.

They should be returned, together with a registration fee of £1. When the scheme receives comparable details from another applicant they will send these to you to see if you are agreeable to exchanging homes.

### Owners only

Once both families have agreed to exchange, the balance of the exchange fee of £3 is requested, on receipt of which the scheme immediately forwards the names and addresses of each other to the parties concerned so that contact may be established. From this point clients are free to make the final, more personal arrangements for their holiday, such as the exchange of photographs, references and final dates—but, if after this for any valid reason the exchange family rescinds the agreement, the scheme would endeavour to find a suitable alternative address at no extra charge.

It is only possible for owner/occupiers to participate in the scheme at present.

### Strikers to aid of Spastics

During the recent provincial bus strike, ten Plymouth Corporation buses went back on to the roads. Manned by some of the strikers, they took spastic and other handicapped children to special schools in the city.

The crews met with some opposition from irate members of the public who had to walk,

## Driver is glamorous grandma

DURING THE DAY, 42-year-old Mrs. Jacqueline Woakes drives Gloucester spastic children to and from school under contract.

But afterwards, it is time for the grandchildren—for Mrs. Woakes has no fewer than seven. And this year, at a Clacton-on-Sea holiday camp, she won the Glamorous Grandmother competition sponsored by a national magazine.

Mrs. Woakes, who finds her work with spastic children very rewarding, has four children of her own aged between 15 and 26, from a marriage which followed a three-day whirlwind courtship 27 years ago.

### £300 RAISED

Nearly £300 was collected at the annual fete of the South-East Surrey Spastic Group. Attractions included coconut shies, white elephant stalls, a fancy dress parade and a dog show.

# Bill Hargreaves is Humanitarian number two

THE Humanist Award, given by the Rosicrucian Order for services to humanity, was presented to Mr. Bill Hargreaves, the Spastics Society's Clubs Officer, at a ceremony at the Cafe Royal, London.

The rare award—it has been presented to only one other Briton, Lady Morrison—was made to Mr. Hargreaves because the Rosicrucians, an international body with its headquarters in California, were deeply impressed by his courage in overcoming physical handicaps and by his work in securing better lives for other handicapped people.

The citation certificate, under the title of "The Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis," reads: "In recognition of unselfish service performed in furtherance of humanitarian activities, the Rosicrucian Order (AMORC) takes pride in conferring upon William Hargreaves the title of Humanitarian. This certificate shall always be a reminder to its possessors of the dignity of their conduct and of the high esteem such actions bring them in the eyes of their fellow men."

It is signed by Ralph M. Lewis, Imperator of the Order.

In an accompanying letter to Mr. Hargreaves, Mr. Lewis writes: "Your activities, carried on in the interest of others in

your community, were carefully noted over a period of several years. The personal sacrifice and extensive effort you have put into your activities is most commendable.

"However humble these events, the fact that they represent the very highest motives of which man is capable makes them a valuable contribution to human progress."

## DEVON SAYS IT WITH FLOWERS

THE highest total ever achieved by one collecting box in the history of the Devon and Torbay Spastics Society—and it's all done with flowers.

That was the story when Mrs. Lionel Wiscombe, who with her husband, sells flowers from her garden overlooking the River Lym to aid spastics, looked in her box and found that she had accumulated over £21—£16 more than last year.

The garden, one of the most beautiful in the area, takes up every evening of Mr. Wiscombe's time.



## VILLAGERS TURN OUT FOR JOHN

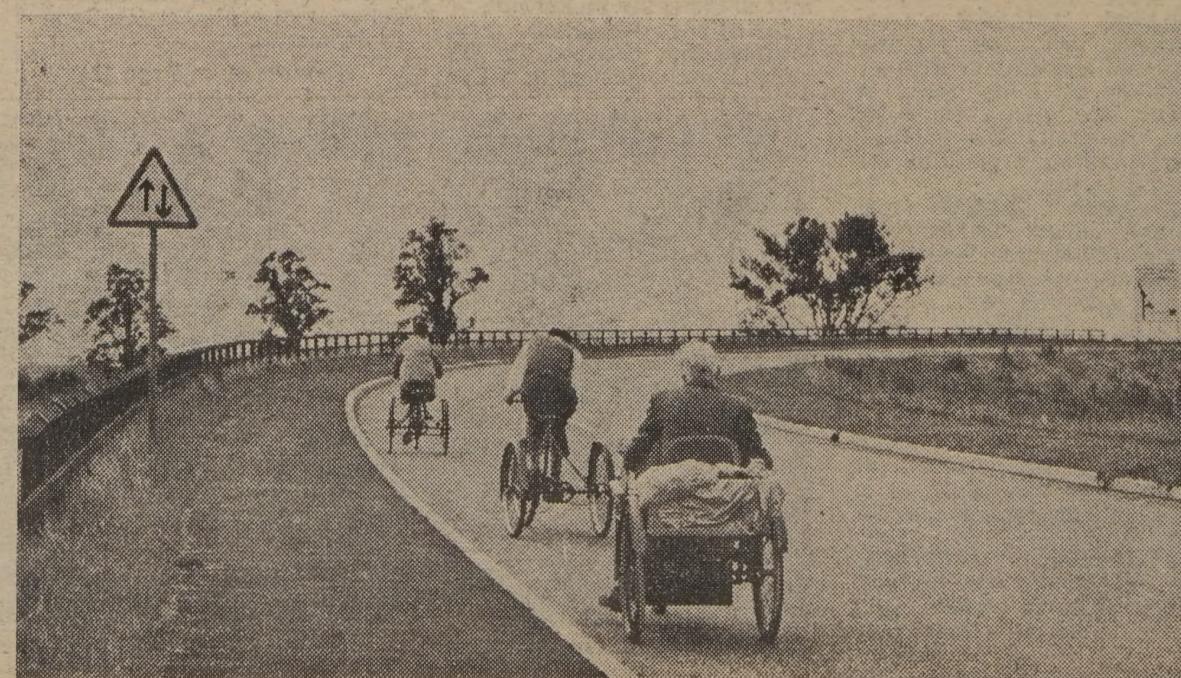
When the Haynes (Beds.) Women's Institute sent out an appeal to 18 organisations in the village to help raise cash to buy a power-driven chair and an ambulance chair for a local spastic, there was an immediate response.

Over £50 was quickly forthcoming and there were offers of help from public houses, Guides and Brownies and the youth club, all of whom, like the Institute itself, planned fund-raising events.

Object of all this good-will is John, the spastic son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Thompson, of 14 Northwood End.

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

What's going on here? Residents of the former Prested Hall know the answer—it's moving day. Above: staff lift furniture downstairs, and (below) three residents get off under their own steam. Destination: Drummonds, the new Essex adult centre replacing Prested Hall and The Grange.



## Spastic killed in tipped chair incident

A spastic at a Middlesex mental hospital who was tipped out of his wheelchair by a "mischievous boy" of 15 later died from a fractured skull.

At an inquest at Kingston upon Thames at which a verdict of "death by misadventure" was recorded on Peter Eric Coakley, aged 24, the Coroner, Mr. John Burton, said there seemed to be no way of preventing such incidents, except by moving active members of mental hospitals to another form of custody.

The 15-year-old "mischievous" patient was described as the worst of his type the hospital had had.

Mr. Coakley, a patient since 1951, was said to be severely spastic and could not speak or stand.

# Crossroads stars are guests of Broadstones

RESIDENTS and staff of Broadstones Hostel played host and hostess to two celebrities from the cast of the television series "Crossroads," when Marylin Hope (Miss Sue Nicholls) and her television husband, Peter Hope (Mr. Neville Hughes) accompanied by Miss Terry Tobias of Midlands A.T.V. Network, visited the hostel.

**Now Stephen will have his lessons taped**

Fourteen-year-old Stephen Smith should have his lessons taped this term, for he returned to the Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge with a brand new piece of equipment — a superb tape recorder.

Stephen, who hopes to study engineering, received the recorder to help with his school work from members of the Clacton and District Spastics Society, some of whose members called regularly at the Town Hall, banks and offices in the town collecting used postage stamps to raise the money. Over a period of about 18 months they made between £40 and £50.

At his home at 45 Severn Road, Clacton, Stephen said: "I feel it is going to be a great help to me." He thanked the group for "saving so long and so hard."

## New editor

MR. JACK GOWERS, former chief sub-editor of the award-winning evening newspaper, the "Cambridge News," has been appointed editor of "Spastics News."

Mr. Gowers has been a newspaperman for 23 years. He served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

## Fifth on form

Six girls from the Fifth Form of Westcliff High School, spent two days a week of their summer holidays helping at Southend Spastics Centre.

Mrs. Ann Older, who runs the Centre, said that the girls were prepared to do any task, however menial, to help and were able to give the children individual attention.

## AIDS AND APPLIANCES

### HORNBY PORTAID

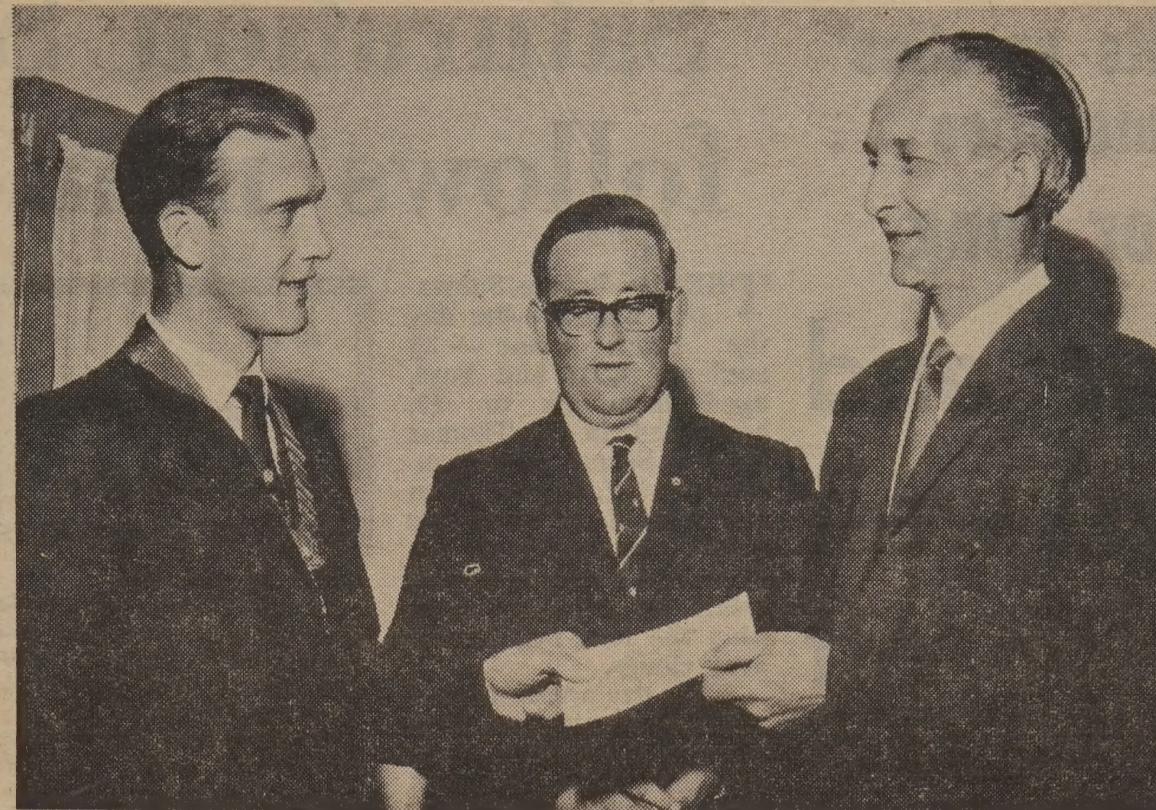
The Hornby Portaid, recommended for use by Mrs. Jennifer Edmonds, physiotherapist at Coombe Farm. The tray can be easily removed and clipped on at the lower level if required. It can be bought from Messrs. Creightons of Leicester, 117, Loughborough Road, Leicester and costs £18 12s. 5d. with one tray, £20 12s. 6d. with two. The extension of the handles acts as a brake when necessary.

### YORKHILL CHAIR

Another photograph of the Yorkhill wheelchair by Amesbury Surgical Appliances Ltd., Southmill Road, Amesbury, Wilts. appears at left, this time with foot-rest, seen before in this column. The chair costs £14 10s. or is available on prescription through the Ministry of Health, and is modelled here by the grandson of Amesbury's Managing Director.

### FOR SALE

Modern Folding wheelchair by Everest and Jennings, almost new. Chrome with grey plastic trim. Price, £15. Telephone 01-736 8616.



From Page 9

GEORGE TAMPIN from New Malden, who trained at Sherrards, is employed as a saw operator by Prince Machines Ltd. at Kingston.

SHARON WALLER from Hitchin, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced assembly work at Messrs. Mentmore Ltd. in Stevenage.

GEORGE WARBURTON from Warrington has changed his job and is now employed as a general assistant for a local firm of building contractors.

ROBERT WILLIAMS from Tremorfa, who trained at Sherrards, is doing press operating for Vicram Engineers Ltd.

DAVID WILSON from Bickerstaffe, nr. Wigan, who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre, has a new job and is now working for a firm in Leigh.

## Menu: tarrtes and toppyns of pygeon, moton and rabbyte'

### "TARRTES AND TOPPYNS OF Pygeon, Moton and Rabbyte"

— so read the bill of fare. You'd had a measure of mead and Eyrour Angel before, could have Peson Podyng and Salade of Cabiges with it, and would be finishing up with Wynde Berries of yon Hedge-row with Appuls upboiled in Syrop. Not to mention, of course, the Bredes and Cheses, Sups of Olde English Wynes, brothe for the homeward journey — and the Soltyte.

Casual observers in Wallingford on one day recently could have been forgiven for thinking that another of the Tom Jones in the Madding Crowd films was about to be shot, especially when they saw buxom costumed serving wenches dashing around amid the tables, straw bales and maypole. The occasion was in fact the second of Castle Priory College's "period" fund raising events, and I should think that you might have had to have gone back the odd six hundred years to have encountered as pleasant a way of spending a 14th Century Evening.

"An Old English Merrymaking" was the official reason for the food. But that was only part of it. For one thing the event was blessed with a fine evening. Tables were therefore set up out of doors, and the surrounding lawn picked out by braziers and lamps. The athletic ones amongst the guests could besport themselves with bobbing apples (or appuls) and ducking apples. Less energetic types could chat up the wench selling love potions at a farthing a time. (Very democratic they were in the 14th Century)

The entire evening was in fact skilfully planned and executed throughout and constituted an excellent evening out for persons lucky enough to get tickets. Castle Priory is setting a rather staggering standard when it comes to fund raising events like this. The trend-setter was an Elizabethan Evening held late last year in the barn at the College, on which was sought the guidance

## Cheque for a chalet

Disabled children and their parents from the Grantham area now have a seaside chalet at Chapel St. Leonards—and it is largely due to the efforts of Grantham Round Table.

For their chairman, Tabler Derek Mitcham, handed a cheque for £700 to the society's vice-chairman, Mr. George Bird, towards the cost of the chalet, which is already in use.

The money was raised at rummage sales and a Whit Monday gala.

Left to right: Tabler Mitcham, Tabler Brownlow (past chairman) and Mr. Bird at the cheque presentation.

(Picture courtesy of "The Grantham Journal".)

of the White Hart Hotel, Sonning, who again loaned some equipment for the July event.

The second period evening improved on the first, something that the Elizabethan revellers of last year would not have thought possible. A tremendous amount of extra work for the staff and students is clearly needed to put on the events, given the attention to detail which is clearly evident. Staff borrow costumes or hire them at their own expense; the students make up their own. This year the event was organised at the instigation of the students who volunteered to give up their end-of-term dance to a fund raising event of this nature.

Where from here is the big question. Castle Priory has made too many friends and admirers through its delightful "happenings" to give them up now! Do they go even further back and have a Druids Dinner or a Copper Age Cornucopia? I suspect that one of the main pressures on them is to have a Regency Evening, with compulsory period costume for everybody. With the riverside location that the College enjoys it would be a quite superb event — if one survived the fierce competition that there would be for tickets. Let's hope.

Oh yes — that Soltyte. Apparently in the 14th Century when His Nibs the Lord of the Manor threw his annual feast the crowning glory of the evening was an iced cake model of the house, to scale, which was carried in, applauded, admired and devoured. Not to be outdone, Castle Priory had their Soltyte. I have said they attended to detail. This particular detail measured approximately 5ft. x 3ft.!

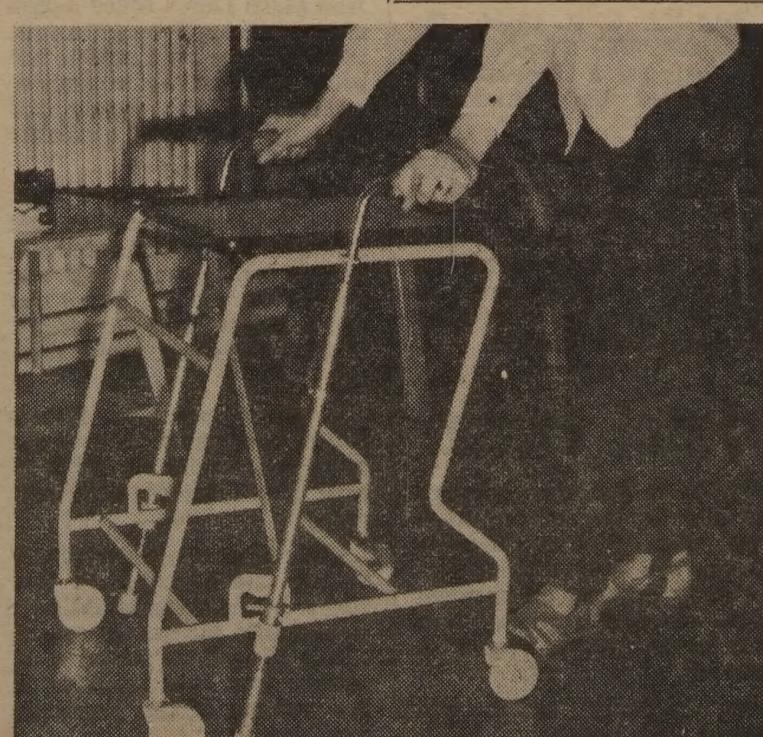
By S. T. Allman

Head of Centres

## Cardiff men honoured

Two principal officers of the Gloucester and District Spastics Association have each been honoured with appointments by the Minister of State.

The chairman, Mr. D. W. Spackman, has been appointed to the Gloucester Disablement Committee and the secretary, Mr. Wm. G. Thomas to the Stroud and District Disablement Committee.



## A move for Mr. Knight

Mr. Harry Knight, who has been the Society's Regional Officer in East Anglia for the past nine years, is shortly to take up a new post as executive organiser of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

This full-time job has been created because the task of raising and administering N.A.N.S.A. funds is becoming more than voluntary workers can cope with in their spare time.

Mrs. Esther Rifa Harris of Hampstead Garden Suburb, who died in January, left £100 to the Spastics Society.

The Archbishop of Wales, joint patron of the Cardiff and District Spastics Association has donated £77, representing

half the offering taken at Llandaff Cathedral on the occasion of the enthronement ceremony of the Archbishop.

Mr. Douglas Thrower of Plaistow, who is himself a spastic, joined a sponsored walk in aid of his local Muscular Dystrophy Group. He collected more than £50.

Among donations received for the new Fitzroy Square Assessment Centre are one of 10 guineas from the Dudley and District Spastics Group, and one of £25 from the Coalville and District Society.

Durham and District Spastics Society has now changed its name to Durham County Spastics Society.

# RAIN hits spastics' enterprise ... but not for long

## Peter and Roger wait for off

TORRENTIAL RAIN AND STORM-LASHED SEAS TEMPORARILY WASHED OUT THE COURAGEOUS PLANS OF TWO YOUNG SPASTICS TO SAIL BOTH WAYS ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL IN A CATAMARAN.

Roger Holt and Peter West, both of Ethingham Park Road, Finchley, London, had intended to make the two-way crossing from Dover at dawn on September 14. Violent storms made the project impossible, so they waited... and waited, for the weather to clear.

Finally, after the Royal Navy had sent a signal that the Channel was unsafe for small craft, they decided to return to their jobs in London but maintain hourly contact with the Met. Office in Berkshire.

And it was announced: "The crossing will still take place." The pair were given permission by their employers to leave work and return to Dover for the attempt as soon as sea conditions grew safer.

The crossing was being jointly sponsored by REMploy Ltd., and the '62 Clubs. Remploy employs Peter West as a Senior Engineering Inspector.

"We heard that the delays had already almost exhausted the two men's funds, and we felt we couldn't let the project be cancelled through lack of money," said a Remploy spokesman.

Both are founder-members of the '62 Clubs.

**Stop Press:** Roger and Peter taken off boat for safety near Goodwin Sands on return journey.

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**Editor, Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1.**

# Saturation Sunday follows mini-sports

From

J. Le Provost

Education Officer

order of the day.

Soon after midday the whole programme of wheel-chair and tricycle events (straight, relay and slalom) was completed. Then came the rains!

The news from Exmouth, the aqua-planing heavy cars at Crystal Palace and the abandonment of Newbury Races boded ill. But the bright weather at the Portsmouth athletics kept our spirits high.

At 2.30, the rain stopped, but it still required an hour to allow the track to dry. But undaunted, an hour later, the track and field events began. The weather held off until early evening, and the whole programme for Saturday and for Sunday morning was completed.

A varied succession of track events (running, walking and relay) saw some exciting races: a two-team senior relay (4 x 80 yds.) achieved the fast time of 42 secs. Interspersed were club, medicine ball and discus throwing, weight putting, and javelin (both precision and straight).

Then on Saturday evening began the 14-hour deluge. By 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, when the competitors were due to leave for the Tunbridge Wells Baths to carry out the swimming programme, the River Medway was threatening and all phone communications had been cut.

#### Hard training

Some of the helpers got through to the Baths, where the water had been warmed to 84°F (28°C) in readiness. That morning the lightning had played on the bicycle handlebars of the man coming in to stoke the boilers. The Grammar School Games Mistress managed to get through to relay the decision to cancel the event.

The team from Craig-y-Parc set off home at 9 a.m. on Monday and, travelling by sundry detours, arrived safely in South Wales at 7.30 p.m. that evening. The first 51 miles took four hours. Ten minutes after their arrival home, all the lights in the school failed as they were going to bed.

These sports were held as part of the build-up of the National Spastics Games being planned for July, 1969. Useful information was gained about standards, handicaps and times.

The arrangements were based on selected groups representing five degrees of handicap severity. The Games Committee will now be able to frame its 1969 programme.

# BUT NOT TOO EARLY

A LITTLE early for you say? It's just a reminder that splendid cards are available from the Society.

And many Spastics Cards will be travelling thousands of miles this Christmas.

"We have a rush of early orders from people going overseas who want to take their Spastics Cards with them and post them back home for Christmas," said a spokesman.

There is a particularly good selection of designs this year. Full information and a coloured brochure are available free from Spastics Cards Ltd., The Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks.

### NEXT MONTH

Mr. Bill Hargreaves, the Spastics Society's Clubs' Officer, has just returned from a visit to Canada at the invitation of the Newfoundland Cerebral Palsy Association. He writes: "It was not until this visit that I realised just what our Society has achieved in 16 short years."

What Mr. Hargreaves learned in Newfoundland forms the subject of a fascinating article. Read it in next month's "Spastics News." Also next month: Dennis Wheatley, Prince of Story-tellers.

#### 62 CLUB DINNER

Address for London 62 Club dinner tickets (see page 9) is 28 Rettingham Way, Chingford, E.4, and not as stated.

Shirley Bradman shows the autographed bat to her mother and (right) Mr. Crabb.  
(Photo by courtesy of "Cambridge News").

### MELDRETH CATCH AUSSIES' BAT

Highest bid for a cricket bat, autographed by the Australian Test team and auctioned at Meldreth Training School's fete, was £13—and the buyers were the school themselves.

The auction was one of the features of an impressive afternoon of events, opened by Lady Bradman, wife of the famous Australian cricketer, Sir Donald Bradman. Their daughter, Shirley, is working at the school.

Said Mr. G. H. Crabb, the Principal: "The school bid for the bat as a keepsake in memory of Lady Bradman's visit."

Despite threatening weather, the fete, which attracted a crowd of several hundred, and with the proceeds of competitions, it grossed the highest total ever, about £650. Proceeds are for the school's amenity and improvement funds.

### Fatal crash

Mr. L. O. Marjoram, 61-year-old honorary treasurer of Stamford and District Spastics Society was killed and his wife seriously hurt in an accident while returning to their Stamford home from a committee meeting.

An obituary notice will appear next month.

### Andover's first Gymkhana

#### RESULTS

Jumping, open class (The Thos. King and Sons Challenge Cup): 1 Rosalind Peast, 2 Heather Philpitt, 3 Elizabeth Hale.

Jumping, 15 and under (The W. A. Motley Challenge Cup): Wendy Small and Sarah Ward (joint winners), 3 Deborah Beese.

Jumping, 13 and under (The Twining Challenge Cup): 1 Jonathan Grimsdale and Wendy Small (joint winners), 3 Deborah Beese.

Jumping, 10 and under (The Bill Cane Junior Challenge Cup): 1 D. Neill, 2 Tom Beese, 3 Bridget Daly.

Best turned-out pony and rider, open class (The Andover Spastics Society's Challenge Cup): 1 Marion Lowe, 2 Susan Holland, 3 Margaret Hoare.

Best turned-out pony and rider, 10 and under: 1 Nicola Rolls, 2 Joanne Ware, 3 M. Spottiswood.

Bending race, 10 and under: 1 Bridget Daly, 2 William Grimsdale, 3 M. Stroud.

Bending race, 11-13: 1 H. Rushworth-Lund, 2 Deborah Beese, 3 Jonathan Grimsdale.

Bending race, 14 and over: 1 M. Brace, 2 Susan Holland, 3 Jill Vallis.

Walk and trot race, 8 and under: 1 Howard Rich, 2 M. Spottiswood, 3 H. Ward.

Run, Mount and trot, 13 and under: 1 Deborah Beese, 2 Rosemary Hunt, 3 Fay Wise.

Run, Mount and gallop, 14 and over: 1 Susan Holland, 2

Marion Lowe, 3 M. O'Leary.

Flag race, 13 and under: 1 H. Rushworth-Lund, 2 Sarah Ward, 3 Wendy Small.

Flag race, 14 and over: 1 Susan Holland, 2 Marion Lowe, 3 M. O'Leary.

Potato race, 10 and under: 1 Bridget Daly, 2 Melanie Burgess, 3 Keith Rich.

Potato race, 11-13: 1 H. Rushworth-Lund, 2 Deborah Beese, 3 Sarah Ward.

Potato race, 14 and over: 1 Susan Holland, 2 Elizabeth Hale, 3 M. Bruce.

Musical sacks, 14 and under: 1 H. Rushworth-Lund, 2 Deborah Beese, 3 M. Smith.

Musical sacks, open: 1 H. Rushworth-Lund, 2 Susan Holland, 3 Jill Vallis.

### Scandinavian cruise

The Spastics Society has made a booking with the British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. for a party of 30 LIGHTLY HANDICAPPED adults (minimum age 18 years) to join a holiday cruise to Norway, Denmark and Holland from 11th - 21st May, 1969. The cost will be £55 per person.

For further details and application forms, please write immediately to: Mrs. W. R. Greenwood, Holiday Organiser, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, WIP 5 HQ. Closing date for applications will be 1st December, 1968.